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A Quarterly Journal
Devoted to
BIRDS OF TENNESSEE

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Edited by
ALBERT F. GANIER

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THE MIGRANT

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WHISPER SONGS AND NIGHT SINGING

BY MRS. F. C. LASKEY

Doubtless the best known singer of "whisper" songs in Tennessee is the Mockingbird because his performance occurs in late summer and autumn when the weather is propitious for noting these soft-toned songs. However, his softest, sweetest whisper songs are given on mild sunny days when the calendar and the landscape indicate winter still reigns. These January and February songs are often so subdued that the fine thread of melody is carried only a few yards from the performer as he sits quietly on his low perch. This is the first intimation of the awakening of the mating urge which is climaxed by a wild ecstatic song with acrobatic accompaniments in late March, if by that time he has not secured a mate. Again when a mate had joined him early in the season, he has been heard in a whispering vesper song after he had escorted her to her roosting place about a half hour before dark. Instead of flying immediately to his own roost, he withdrew gradually, stopping to sing two or three times from very low trees until his gray garb blended with the evening shadows and only the flashes of white in wings and tail revealed his final dash into his own shrubbery sleeping apartment.

It is probable that a large number of birds open their spring repertoire in this charming fashion, but my observations over a period of several years include only a few others. Early in February, a Robin was noted in lengthy whisper songs on several successive days, continuing about an hour on February 5th. This performance consisted of a repetition of the "cheer up" song with variations and was given with closed bill. The slightly distended throat was the only indication of the source of the music and although he perched directly above my seat in the garden, it took some time to positively identify him as the singer. However, he stopped occasionally long enough to eat a few hackberries or to regurgitate a hackberry seed and at each of the pauses, the singing ceased during the brief time necessary to swallow the berries or later to bring up and eject a denuded seed.

In "A Brief Study of the Courtship of the Eastern Cardinal," by Dr. Shaver and Mrs. Roberts (*Journal Tenn. Acad. Science*, Apr. 1933), the male Cardinal is mentioned as beginning his singing in January when the days are mild and at times giving a whisper song. On February 20th, my daybook contains a note concerning a pair of Cardinals that were investigating possible nesting sites in shrubbery outside a window and uttering an almost inaudible low-toned little song as they hopped from twig to twig. It was impossible, however, to determine which of the two was the singer. Later in the season, a female was heard in soft little songs as she brooded her clutch of three eggs in a hackberry near the house.

About the first of March, a Song Sparrow rendered a most delightful whisper song of considerable length as he perched on a fence post behind a shrub border. Also in March, but about the middle of the month, a Brown Thrasher that had arrived two days previously, was heard at noon-day, singing softly as if communing with himself. It was not until a week later that the usual springtime song of this species was recorded that year in the garden.

Once in mid-April a Catbird was noted in a beautiful whisper song, so muted that it was audible only a few feet away.

A Canary that was captured in November, 1932, as he fed with wild birds about the banding traps at the home station, often closes his day with a song

so fine and threadlike that it can be heard only at close range. This seems to be a serenade to his imaginary companion for he usually sings it to his own reflection in a shiny tin food container fastened to his cage.

Of the diurnal species, the Mockingbird leads as a singer of the night hours, particularly when the moon is bright in late May, June, and early July. On moonlight nights also, the call of the Killdeer may be heard repeatedly as he wings his way over meadows where his kind may be found feeding in the daytime. He has been heard in October and January.

In February, a Cardinal was heard giving a short song about a half hour before dawn and on April 14th, a song came at 4 a.m. when it was still dark, from the place where a female Cardinal had been roosting. She had completed her nest and two days later deposited the first egg. Late in June, the "whoit-whoit" song of a Cardinal was heard about midnight.

During June and late May, the Chat, the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and the Field Sparrow have been recorded, the Chat sometimes giving his peculiar, unmelodious calls at intervals the greater part of a night. One night around ten o'clock, a Cuckoo gave his "cow-cow" call very slowly for three minutes and was heard again the same night at 10:30 and 11 p.m. On two occasions, the call of the Cuckoo seemed to have aroused a nearby Field Sparrow long enough for him to respond with a trill or two, but at other times, one gave his little song from his roost in a rose vine when all other birds were still. The Field Sparrow's most persistent night singing was recorded in April; one night three of these short song periods occurred between the hours of eleven and two-thirty.

Perhaps my next decade of bird observations will increase this little list of whisper and night time singers, and probably other observers have interesting data along this line that would augment this group that frequent our garden.

NASHVILLE, TENN., March 1, 1935.

SPRING MIGRATION AT ATHENS, TENN.

Compiled by A. F. GANIER from the records of W. R. GETTYS

Mr. Gettys, who gathered the following migration records, died in 1910 at the age of 32. It therefore becomes necessary for another hand to prepare these introductory sentences and to arrange and condense his notes in easily readable form.

In *The Migrant* for last March, there was presented a summary of the nesting records of this active field worker together with some biographic data pertaining to him. For the years 1903 to 1909 inclusive, he reported his migration records to the U. S. Biological Survey, sending in returns both Spring and Fall. These have been made available by The Survey to the writer, as well as a Spring return for 1902, by Prof. G. B. Stone of Athens, with whom it is probable Mr. Gettys collaborated. In one of Mr. Gettys old notebooks there was found a letter dated July 15, 1908, from Prof. Wells W. Cooke, then in charge of migration data for The Survey, reading as follows:

"Dear Mr. Gettys: Your report on the bird migration this spring is very welcome. For many years our efforts to obtain notes on the movement of the birds of Tennessee were only partially successful, but during these last few years, thanks to your efforts, we are getting a most excellent set of data for that State. Yours truly, . . . " In the extended series of papers on the migration of American birds, begun by Prof. Cooke in the early volumes of *Bird-lore*, we find these records quoted throughout. The averages which are given below do not always correspond with those published in *Bird-lore* for the reason that some extreme dates have not been used in computing the average. Where data given is too meagre, no averaging has been attempted. The reports contain other data but this is omitted due to lack of space.

It will be of interest to compare these spring records with those made at Atlanta, 125 miles south, and with Nashville, 135 miles north-west. These

will be found in E. R. Greene's *Birds of the Atlanta Area*, 1933, and H. C. Monk's paper on "Bird Migration at Nashville," 1929, in *Journal, Tenn. Acad. of Science*, Vol. 4, p.p. 65-77.

The common names given below are those in current usage and the forms shown are those assigned to this area by the *Distributional List of the Birds of Tennessee*, 1933. The letter "E" prefixed to certain names stands for "Eastern." Species which he regarded as breeding near his station are designated by the term "Breeds"; non-breeders are denoted as "Transients" or "Winter visitants." Following this is the calculated average date of first arrival and the single figure in parenthesis which follows is the number of dates from which the average was computed, certain "out of line" dates not being used. The second line represents the dates of first arrivals, from 1902 to 1909, arranged in order of earliness.

GREAT BLUE HERON. Does not breed. One spring record, 4 on March 30, 1909.

E. GREEN HERON. Common. Breeds. Average arrival April 17 (7). (Arrival dates—March 30, April 1, 5, 19, 29, May 1 and 3).

COMMON CANADA GOOSE. Tolerably common. Latest March 11; also 16 on March 25.

COMMON MALLARD. Common. Does not breed, transient. Last seen May 1, 1903; May 1, 1907, and April 7, 1904.

SORA RAIL. Rare. Transient. One record, April 24, 1902.

AMERICAN COOT. Rare. Transient. One record, April 17, 1902.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK. Four records—March 1, 2 and 20, 1906; 3 on March 10, 1907.

WILSON'S SNIPE. Does not breed. Five seen on March 19, 1906.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 18 (7). (Arrival dates—April 10, 10, 17, 19, 21, 23 and 28).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, May 1 (7). (Arrival dates—April 29, 29, May 1, 1, 2, 2 and 3).

E. WHIP-POOR-WILL. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 10 (6). (Arrival dates—March 24, April 6, 9, 15, 16, 22 and May 5).

E. NIGHTHAWK. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 26 (8). Arrival dates—April 20, 20, 24, 25, 28, 28, 29 and May 5).

CHIMNEY SWIFT. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 4 (8). (Arrival dates—March 29, 31, 31, April 3, 4, 4, 9, and 12).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 19 (8). (Arrival dates—April 12, 17, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23 and 24).

E. KINGBIRD. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 25 (8). (Arrival dates—April 13, 13, 23, 30, May 1, 1, 1 and 2nd).

NORTHERN CRESTED FLYCATCHER. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 17 (8). (Arrival dates—April 9, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 20 and 24).

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 26 (8). (Arrival dates—April 21, 23, 24, 25, 27, 27, 29 and 30).

E. WOOD PEWEE. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 26 (8). (Arrival dates—April 23, 24, 25, 25, 25, 26, 28 and 28).

PRAIRIE HORNED LARK. Common. Winter visitant. Dates last seen—March 21, March 31, April 1 and April 26.

BANK SWALLOW (Note b). Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 18 (8). (Arrival dates—April 6, 10, 18, 19, 20, 23, 25 and 27).

BARN SWALLOW. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 16 (8). (Arrival dates—April 8, 11, 13, 15, 16, 19, 19 and 24).

PURPLE MARTIN. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, March 24 (6). (Arrival dates—March 17, 17, 20, 22, April 3, 4, 11 and 13).

BROWN CREEPER. Tolerably common. Winter visitant. Last dates seen—April 24, 20, 5 and March 25.

WINTER WREN. Tolerably common. Winter visitant. March 15 and 25.

CATBIRD. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 21. (Arrival dates—April 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25).

WOOD THRUSH. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 10 (7). (Arrival dates—March 25, April 12, 15, 18, 18, 18, 18 and 28).

E. HERMIT THRUSH. Common. Winter visitant. Last dates seen—April 23, 21, 5 and 5.

VEERY (WILSON'S THRUSH). Rare. Transient. Recorded April 26 and May 6.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, March 24 (5). (Arrival dates—March 18, 21, 24, 27, 28 and April 6).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET. Common. Winter visitant. Average last April 18 (6). (Last dates seen—April 9, 15, 18, 22, 23 and 23).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET. Common. Winter visitant. Average last April 24 (5). (Last dates seen—April 18, 22, 23, 24 and May 1).

WHITE-EYED VIREO. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 15 (7). (Arrival dates—March 24, April 7, 12, 12, 12, 13, 15 and 19).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO. Tolerably common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 17 (5). (Arrival dates—April 8, 10, 20, 21 and 25).

RED-EYED VIREO. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 6 (7). (Arrival dates—April 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 9).

E. WARBLING VIREO. Rare. Breeds. Average arrival, April 23 (7). (Arrival dates—April 16, 21, 23, 23, 25, 26 and 27).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, March 29 (8). (Arrival dates—March 21, 24, 24, April 1, 1, 2, 4 and 5).

WORM-EATING WARBLER. Rare. Transient. Average arrival, April 26 (4). (Arrival dates—April 19, 26, 26 and May 5). Last seen, May 10.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER. Tolerably common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 19 (7). (Arrival dates, April 12, 12, 16, 20, 20, 24 and 27).

NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER. Tolerably common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 10 (7). (Arrival dates—April 3, 10, 10, 10, 11, 15 and 15).

E. YELLOW WARBLER. Common. Breeds. (Arrival dates—April 9 and 15).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER. Common some years. Transient. Average arrival, May 1 (4). (Arrival dates—April 23, 28, May 2 and 4).

CAPE-MAY WARBLER. Rare. Transient. Average arrival, May 1 (4). (Arrival dates—April 28, 28, May 1 and 7). Last seen, May 13.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER. Tolerably common. Transient. (Arrival dates—April 23, May 2 and 3). Last seen, May 11.

MYRTLE WARBLER. Common. Winter visitant. Average last April 28 (7). (Last dates noted—April 17, 25, 26, 28, 28, 29 and May 14).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER. Common. Transient. Average arrival, April 1 (7). (Arrival dates—March 21, 24, April 3, 3, 3, 4 and 9). Last seen, May 31.

CERULEAN WARBLER. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 13 (6). (Arrival dates—April 10, 12, 12, 13, 13, 18 and May 5).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, March 27 (7). (Arrival dates—March 23, 24, 24, 24, 26, April 2 and 3).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. Common. Transient. Average arrival, May 1 (5). (Arrival dates—April 10, 25, 28, May 2, 2 and 3). Last seen, May 19.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER. Rare. Transient. (Arrival dates—April 13, 30 and May 4). Last seen, May 11.

NORTHERN PINE WARBLER. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, March 4 (6). (Arrival dates—Jan. 24, Feb. 22, 22, 23, March 3, 15, 20). (Probably some winter. G.).

NORTHERN PRAIRIE WARBLER. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 15 (8). (Arrival dates—April 8, 9, 13, 13, 14, 18, 23, 24).

OVENBIRD. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 11 (7). (Arrival dates—April 7, 7, 8, 9, 14, 14 and 18).

LA. WATER THRUSH. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, March 22 (8). (Arrival dates—March 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 23, 24 and 27).

KENTUCKY WARBLER. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 22 (3). (Arrival dates—April 20, 23 and 23).

MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 11 (4). (Arrival dates—April 7, 9, 10, 16, 25, 28 and 30).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 25 (6). (Arrival dates—April 21, 24, 25, 25, 28 and 28).

HOODED WARBLER. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 12 (6). (Arrival dates—April 7, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 21 and 26).

CANADA WARBLER. Not common. Transient. Average arrival, April 30 (7). (Arrival dates—April 27, 27, 28, 28, May 2, 3 and 9).

AMERICAN REDSTART. Common. Transient. Average arrival, April 24 (8). (Arrival dates—April 12, 16, 19, 19, 26, May 2, 3, 5). Last seen, May 27.

BOB-O-LINK. Common. Transient. Average arrival, April 28 (5). (Arrival dates—April 23, 26, 26, 26, 26, May 2, 9). Latest, May 20, 23 and 25.

E. REDWING BLACKBIRD. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, March 1 (7). (Arrival dates—Feb. 12, 18, 20, March 4, 4, 12, 19).

ORCHARD ORIOLE. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 13 (7). (Arrival dates—April 6, 8, 10, 15, 19, 19, 20 and 24).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 15 (7). (Arrival dates—April 8, 11, 14, 18, 19, and 19).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD. Tolerably common. Winter visitant. (Spring records—10 on March 12, 1902, and 19 on April 22, 1907).

PURPLE GRACKLE. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, March 2 (7). (Arrival dates—Feb. 6, 26, 27, 28, March 2, 3, 5 and 8).

SCARLET TANAGER. Rare. One record—May 6, 1903.

SUMMER TANAGER. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 16 (8). (Arrival dates—April 10, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18, 21 and 23).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK. Common. Transient. Average arrival, April 25 (8). (Arrival dates—April 20, 22, 22, 24, 24, 25, 28 and May 2).

INDIGO BUNTING. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, April 25 (5). (Arrival dates—April 15, 25, 28, and 29).

E. PURPLE FINCH. Common. Winter visitant. Average departure, April 20 (7). (Dates last seen—April 8, 15, 15, 20, 24, 24 and May 3).

E. VESPER SPARROW. Common. Transient. (Arrival dates—March 13 and March 31). Last date seen, April 10.

SLATE COLORED JUNCO. Common. Winter visitant. Average departure, April 6 (6). (Dates last seen—April 1, 3, 5, 7, 10 and 12).

E. TREE SPARROW. Winter visitant. Average departure, April 8 (5). (Dates last seen—March 25, 25, April 14, 17 and 22). (This is the most southerly wintering place for this species yet recorded.—G.).

E. CHIPPING SPARROW. Common. Breeds. Average arrival, March 12 (6). (Arrival dates—March 2, 2, 15, 17, 19, 20 and 25).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW. Common. Winter visitant. Average departure, May 4 (7). (Dates last seen—April 26, May 1, 2, 6, 6, 9 and 10).

E. FOX SPARROW. Tolerably common. Winter visitant. (Dates last seen—March 12, 20, April 1 and 18).

E. SONG SPARROW. Common. Winter visitant. Average departure, April 24 (6). (Dates last seen—April 16, 24, 24, 26, 26 and 28).

[*Notes*:—(a) Mr. Getty's records for the Whip-poor-will are believed to also include those on the Chuck-wills-widow, for he found the latter species nesting at Athens; (b) Since the Rough-winged Swallow is the breeding form of "Bank Swallow" at Athens, it is likely that most of these notes apply to the latter; (c) The Junco records probably include some for the Carolina Junco as well, since the latter breeds on the high mountains 25 miles to the southeast. A number of other species listed as "transients", are also known to breed on these high mountains.—A. F. G.]

NASHVILLE, TENN.

LOGGERHEAD NOTES

BY BENJAMIN R. WARRINER

"Shrike has six young in nest at Bill Mason's, July 2, 1934. Says bird feeds young on apples"—rough note among my bird memoranda of the past summer. My friend Bill Mason lives less than two miles south of the Mississippi-Tennessee line, on the Corinth and Jackson paved highway, so this brief story only lacks a little of having its situs in McNairy County, Tennessee.

Before the report of the fledglings came to me, I had been out to see the Loggerhead's nest. It was in a small, low, thick, plum tree, some four feet from the ground, in the back-yard of my friend's home, and about fifty feet from the house. I found impaled on thorns in other small trees and shrubs about the lawn four skeletons of small birds—mute evidence that the Shrike had been playing the reprehensible role of bird-killer. The little bodies were so badly decomposed that I could not identify them. So when Bill Mason informed me that the parent bird was feeding her fledglings on bits of soft apples pecked from near by trees, I could not conceal my skepticism. Investigation, however, confirmed the report. It appeared that the birds in the nest were beginning life as vegetarians. They consumed quantities of the mushy summer apples all but crammed down their greedy mouths. The apples came from trees that bore defective fruit; and as a matter of fact nearly every apple contained one or more small grubs or worms, such as are often found on unsprayed trees. It is very likely that the Shrike was including along with the bits of apples also such grubs as they had discovered in the fruit. There can be no doubt, however, that vegetable matter formed at least a part of the food brought to the young birds. A week after my first visit to the nest, I discovered the old bird with a grasshopper in her beak, and this she fed to her youngsters. Soon she left off her visits to the apple trees. She was finding plenty of animal food for the bill of fare for her carnivorous youngsters.

Size considered, the Loggerhead Shrike is doubtless the most courageous of birds. His nickname, "Butcher-bird," is accurately descriptive of his rapacious disposition. Yet, I hasten to defend him. The only possible serious charge to be brought against him is that he does rarely kill a defenseless small bird. This infraction is far outweighed by the good done by the Loggerhead. R. J. Longstreet, a recognized authority, in Florida Birds, says, "Except for this single lapse—the occasional killing of a small bird—he is a very useful citizen, for he preys upon some of man's worst enemies. In winter his food is largely mice and shrews. In summer he destroys great numbers of harmful beetles, grasshoppers, crickets, some cankerworms, and other large insects. Some of the curiosities of his menu are an occasional lizard or small snake, and one was once known to attack and kill a bat. On the whole, scientists do not hesitate to pronounce the bird as being decidedly beneficial."

Of all the misnomers in the category of birds this name, "loggerhead" must be awarded the badge of demerit for stupidity. The word means: a dunce, a silly fellow, a blockhead, a numskull. Yet this same shrike displays a rare degree of intelligence. Reed describes him as being a bird with passerine feet. He belongs to the order of Passeriformes, or so-called perching birds. Passeres is the plural of passer, the Latin word which means sparrow; the point being that all members of the order are similar to the sparrow. One negative characteristic is that they do not have feet equipped for grasping, clutching, and holding securely their prey. Hence, when Reed says that the Shrike has passerine feet he is simply pointing out that he cannot hold his victims in his feet. The Loggerhead, doubtless an eon more or less ago, was forced to find a substitute for his poor weak claws and toes. He had tasted blood and he wanted more of it, but being ill-equipped to play the role of raptore necessity became the mother of invention. He hit upon the happy and ingenious idea of carrying his prey in his heavy, hooked bill, to thorns and other sharp-pointed objects upon which he could impale it until he was ready to dine. Certainly a highly intelligent solution of the difficulty which confronted the Shrike. The fact that there are sometimes several of his victims found impaled about his hunting grounds, leads to the belief that they kill in advance of their needs

and wait for the flesh to reach the tainted stage at which time it becomes more tender. Getting back to the name, however, it is probable that it came originally from a more or less fancied resemblance of the bird's head to that of the loggerhead snapping turtle.

The Shrike is as strong as he is clever. Recently I saw the bird carrying a field rat—apparently about three times the size of an ordinary mouse—firmly held in his beak. He flew slowly, laboriously just above the ground for a distance of some two hundred yards. I thought surely he would be forced to drop his prey, but he did not. His every motion was identical with the book description of him under such conditions. Even the thicket of locust bushes was included in the picture—for that was the goal toward which the shrike was headed, and the goal he finally reached. The rat it seemed to me must have weighed as much as the Loggerhead. Skill and cunning, then, coupled with a strong muscular physique, enable the bird to overcome all that he lacks in size, and his ingenuity more than makes up for the passerine feet that nature has given him.

CORINTH, MISS.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CENSUS
BY OUR MEMBERS

For the fifth year we are reproducing the results of our annual mid-winter list for various points in Tennessee. These lists form an excellent index to the bird population of the State at a time when inclement weather is at its peak. The total recorded, for all listings, is 88 species and this may be compared with the three preceding years when 90, 80, and 77 were listed respectively. Greater numbers in recent years is probably due to the fact that we are learning to find rare sorts that were not on our earlier lists.

	Memphis, Tenn. Dec. 24th	Reelfoot Lake Dec. 25th	Covington, Tenn. Dec. 25th	Paris, Tenn. Dec. 25th	Corinth, Miss. Dec. 27th	Bowling Green, Ky. Dec. 23rd	Nashville, Tenn. Dec. 23rd	Murfreesboro, Tenn. Dec. 23rd	Knoxville, Tenn. Dec. 22nd	Johnson City, Tenn. Jan. 6 and 11
Number of species	59	53	30	35	45	51	67	39	57	39
Number of individuals	3772	1767	681	227	1225	3287	7972	1300	1750	1200
Number of observers	11	6	1	4	2	6	12	4	10	2
Common Loon	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
Pied-billed Grebe	--	8	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
Double-crested Cormorant	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Great Blue Heron	1	1	--	--	1	2	1	--	2	--
Common Mallard	--	--	--	--	--	--	19	--	1	--
Black Duck	--	1	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	--
Gadwall	--	--	--	--	--	--	8	--	--	--
Wood Duck	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--
Ring-necked Duck	--	--	--	--	--	--	110	--	--	--
Canvas-back	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
Lesser Scaup	125	7	--	--	--	--	34	--	--	--
Amer. Goldeneye	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--
Bufflehead	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--
Ruddy Duck	--	--	--	--	--	--	8	--	--	--
Hooded Merganser	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
Black Vulture	--	--	--	--	--	--	11	8	--	--
Turkey Vulture	23	1	2	19	12	3	1	1	2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	2	--
Cooper's Hawk	--	1	--	1	1	1	2	--	1	1
Red-tailed Hawk	2	1	4	--	1	3	3	--	1	--
Red-shoulder Hawk	2	1	--	--	--	--	2	--	1	--
Am. Rough-leg Hawk*	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
Marsh Hawk	1	1	--	--	--	3	3	--	--	--
Sparrow Hawk	14	1	1	--	2	3	9	1	4	1
Hawk-unidentified	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--
Bob-white	24	--	--	--	--	10	2	--	18	26
Coot	--	788	--	--	--	--	41	--	--	--

Kildeer	24	1	20	3	55	2	95	14	24	--
Wilson's Snipe	--	--	--	--	--	--	6	--	4	--
Herring Gull	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ring-billed Gull	3	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mourning Dove	4	2	4	7	150	207	119	17	55	17
Screech Owl	1	--	--	--	--	1	1	1	4	1
Barred Owl	1	3	--	1	4	1	1	1	--	--
Long-eared Owl**	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--
Great-horned Owl	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
Kingfisher	2	4	--	1	1	--	5	--	2	1
Flicker	106	5	9	6	65	11	49	17	30	13
Pileated Woodpecker	--	3	--	--	--	6	8	2	2	--
Red-bel. Woodpecker	39	5	6	2	40	8	28	2	7	--
Red-head Woodpecker	8	--	--	3	--	1	--	--	6	1
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	5	1	--	1	12	3	10	6	4	1
Hairy Woodpecker	7	2	--	2	2	3	13	2	3	1
Downy Woodpecker	23	3	4	2	40	26	20	4	15	14
Phoebe	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	2	2
Prairie Horned Lark	11	--	4	--	--	37	215	150	--	75
Blue Jay	237	6	16	12	50	45	25	6	34	15
Crow	42	3	113	16	5	1060	108	200	55	30
Car. Chickadee	43	10	4	4	30	197	64	6	52	--
Tufted Titmouse	63	14	--	8	40	96	40	4	37	24
White-br. Nuthatch	3	--	--	2	2	--	2	--	13	2
Brown Creeper	5	--	--	2	2	7	3	1	--	--
Winter Wren	2	4	--	1	5	--	3	--	1	--
Bewick's Wren	2	--	1	--	--	5	12	2	--	--
Carolina Wren	57	8	7	4	30	32	59	14	33	23
Prairie Marsh Wren	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mockingbird	60	2	6	9	4	42	170	7	34	21
Brown Thrasher	5	--	--	1	12	--	--	--	--	--
Robin	141	--	1	3	90	179	212	34	200	288
Hermit Thrush	4	--	--	--	4	1	--	--	2	2
Bluebird	48	6	8	5	3	41	89	53	57	28
Golden-cr. Kinglet	50	8	--	3	16	2	4	1	11	8
Ruby-crown Kinglet	8	2	--	--	4	--	--	--	--	--
Amer. Pipet	95	--	180	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cedar Waxwing	294	--	--	--	20	27	10	--	2	32
Migrant Shrike	19	4	3	--	--	2	5	1	2	2
Starling	131	46	24	33	2	180	5400	500	200	200
Myrtle Warbler	112	4	--	--	60	4	51	20	12	22
Pine Warbler	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	--
English Sparrow	Com.	Com.	--	--	Com.	--	125	100	Com.	68
Meadow Lark	179	11	90	2	15	48	53	--	--	6
Redwing Blackbird	15	337	--	--	--	--	--	--	38	--
Rusty Blackbird	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	50	--
Bronzed Grackle	405	265	30	--	20	7	--	--	--	--
Cowbird	1	62	--	--	--	23	6	--	25	--
Blackbirds-unidentified	--	1,100,000	--	60	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cardinal	225	16	17	18	40	149	143	23	60	34
Purple Finch	--	--	--	--	12	--	--	--	3	--
Goldfinch	55	3	30	2	11	15	18	4	20	2
Towhee	8	1	--	18	40	52	50	4	25	1
Savannah Sparrow	12	--	10	--	4	--	7	--	52	--
Fox Sparrow	31	1	--	--	4	1	4	1	3	--
Vesper Sparrow*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--
Slate-colored Junco	196	40	40	19	100	401	180	34	50	38
Field Sparrow	90	8	2	25	35	5	81	3	200	24
Tree Sparrow	--	--	--	--	--	52	--	--	--	--
Chipping Sparrow	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
White-crown Sparrow	12	--	8	--	--	93	61	42	3	3
White-thr. Sparrow	553	36	25	29	150	85	77	8	150	4
Swamp Sparrow	--	6	--	--	--	5	9	--	12	4
Song Sparrow	140	10	12	3	20	98	81	6	68	46

* The Amer. Rough-leg Hawk was seen at 12/22. See note in Round Table.

** The Long-eared Owl at Knoxville was shot on 12/22. Note in Round Table.

* The Vesper Sparrows at Knoxville were recorded by S. A. Ogden.

The Marsh Wren was examined with binoculars, at 12 feet, by B. B. Coffey.

MEMPHIS: Dec. 24th. 8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. Generally overcast with occasional drizzle, temp. 52 to 60 degrees. Uptown wharf, Woodstock, occasional stop on way to Raleigh, Wolf River bottoms west then back southeast to L. & N. R. R. to National Cemetery, miscellaneous points in city and Wolf River bottoms at I. C. R. R. and Payne and Jones Ave. (first party). Municipal Airport, Brooks Ave. and Nonconnah Creek bottoms at Prospect,

Piney Woods, and Riverside Park (second party). Normal section and old Saunders golf course (Hovis); Overton Park (Jackson and Calhoun separately). Two main parties out most of the day, Hovis in morning, and Park covered in an hour. Autos driven about 62 miles (within prescribed area). On foot 12 miles. Observers: Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Eagle Scouts—Frederick Carney, Franklin McCamey, Henry Turner, John McGoldrick, Robert Hovis, Jack Embury, Wendell Whittemore, John Jackson; and Jack Calhoun (Nashville) and Bert Powell. Memphis Chapter, Tenn. Ornith. Society.

REELFOOT LAKE, TENN.: Dec. 25th. 12 to 5 P.M. Overcast with drizzle part time and a heavy shower, practically stopping field work after 2:30 P.M. Ground muddy, slight wind, visibility poor, mist over lake. Short stops at Edgewater Beach, near Blue Bank, Samburg, north of Samburg, and last stop at Walnut Log with short trip out into lake by boat and four miles on foot west on Island opposite McGill Laboratory. Observers: Mr. and Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Fred Carney, Franklin McCamey (all of Memphis), Compton Cook (Boone, N. C.), and Jack Calhoun (Nashville).

COVINGTON: Dec. 25, 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Overcast with occasional sprinkle. Four miles hiked, traveling section from Smith's Farm to Liberty School. By car 10 miles on highway 51 S.-West of Covington, thence to airport 2 miles north of city.—Alice Smith.

PARIS, TENN.: Dec. 25. Temp. 40°-48°. Rain in afternoon. By motor from Paris to Eagle Creek, 11 miles hiked following course of creek to mouth on Big Sandy River, back by Highland Trail. Observers: Buster Thompson, Scouts.—Ben Whipple, Perry Bigham and R. T. Snyder.

CORINTH, MISS.: Dec. 27, 10 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Temp. 45°-50°. Visibility poor 7-8 miles west of Corinth, at Smith's bridge (Tuscumbia River Bottom) and 1 mile farther west at Gift Schoolhouse, covering both open fields and wooded areas.—Elgin Wright and Ben R. Warriner.

BOWLING GREEN, KY.: Dec. 24 Temp. 30°-40°. 7 A.M. to 4 P. M. Chaney, McElroy, and Lazarus farms, Lost River, and Drakes Creek. Observers: Ray, Lancaster, Mason, Brown, and Taylor.

NASHVILLE: Dec. 23. Temp. 30°-40°. West of Nashville; Glendale park; Granny White Pike; Percy Warner pond; Davidson Rd.; White Bridge Rd.; Radnor Lake; Mt. Olivet Cemetery; Cumberland River Bottoms; Knapp Farm Observers: Jack Calhoun, Spiller Campbell, A. F. Ganier, W. J. Hayes, Mrs. F. C. Laskey, G. R. Mayfield, V. S. Sharp, J. M. Shaver, E. C. Tompkins, H. S. Vaughn and G. B. Woodring.

MURFREESBORO: Dec. 23. Temp. 46°. 10 miles on foot. Observers: Geo. Davis, J. M. Edney, R. J. Murphy, and H. O. Todd, Jr.

KNOXVILLE: Dec. 22. Temp. 30°-60°. 7 A.M. to 4 P.M. Island Home bird reserve and other points about Knoxville. Observers: John Bamberg, Miss Mary Beard, Miss Mary Ruth Chiles, Louis Hofferbert, H. P. Ijams, W. M. Johnson, Mrs. Frank Leonard, S. A. Ogden, Dr. E. B. Powers, and James A. Trent, Jr.

JOHNSON CITY: Jan. 6 and 11, 1935. 12 man hours. Cox's Lake, Indian Ridge, Boone's Creek, and Sugar Hollow. Bruce P. Tyler, and R. B. Lyle.

DUCKS: On account of the unprecedented drouth of last spring causing a poor breeding season for most of the ducks the daily bag limit was restricted to twelve and the hunting season curtailed. Thirty days hunting in all were allowed and Tennessee chose to use these at the rate of three a week, from Nov. 8th to Jan. 12. The species hardest hit by the drouth, were the Canvas-back, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Ringneck, Gadwall, Shoveller, and Blue-winged Teal. Reports from Reelfoot Lake, the State's best duck hunting grounds, are to the effect that ducks have been scarce there the past season.

BIRD BANDING BREVITIES

BY MRS. F. C. LASKY

Field Sparrows have been scarce at Blossomdell this past season. Only a few banded individuals have wintered here and just 3 have been banded in January and February, 1935, a remarkably small number compared with 41 during the same period of 1934, and 73 in 1933. The first spring migrants of this species were banded March 8th, a flock arriving in the afternoon of March 7th. A **Brown Thrasher** appeared at the station February 27th, was banded and remained 3 days. By means of distinctive colored bands, two very interesting records of faithfulness between mates have been established. A pair of resident **Cardinals**, the male banded in February, 1932, the female February, 1933, are mated for their third season. A pair of resident **Mockingbirds** also are mated for their third season. This male was banded August, 1931, his mate April, 1933. The Cardinal mates associate with each other during winter, but the pair of Mockingbirds assume an attitude of aloofness toward one another and occupy separate territories between mating seasons. Two unmated male Mockingbirds are occupying territories in the neighborhood of the banding station for the second year, but their former mates have not been seen since migrating last fall.—Details of a very valuable recovery have just been received which were sent by Mr. Benjamin R. Warriner of Corinth, Miss. He says; "On May 22, 1933, I captured a Mockingbird a mile south of Corinth, which was banded with band No. A297380 and released it on the spot. The U. S. Biological Survey has advised that this band was placed on June 6, 1932 by Mrs. Arch Cochran at Nashville, Tenn. According to Mrs. Cochran this was one of four young, banded just before it left the nest. Corinth is 125 miles S.-W. of Nashville." This is probably the only recapture record of a bird banded from the nest in Tennessee. Perhaps in time enough records may be obtained to solve the riddle of the dispersal of the young, as banding here and elsewhere has already shown they do not remain in the vicinity of their natal place after they are full grown except in very rare instances.—A **Starling** was shot January 31, 1935, in West Nashville which had been banded by Dr. L. E. Hicks, Columbus, Ohio, on March 26, 1934. Two other Starlings wearing his bands had been recovered previously; one banded March 3, 1933, was recovered (dead) December 25, 1933 near Gallatin; the other was banded on March 3, 1933 and found dead at Mt. Olivet cemetery, Nashville by Miss Georgia Reed on March 9, 1934. A **Bronzed Grackle** banded July 3, 1933 at Owasso, Mich., by A. S. Montgomery was recovered at Nashville in March, 1934, by C. C. Culp.—It will be noted that except for the Mockingbird captured by Mr. Warriner, the recovery records published thus far in "Bird Banding Brevities," have included only dead birds. How much more valuable to those interested would be records of living birds recaptured away from the place of banding and released with the possibility of other recaptures of the same individual later. Not one of the 4,700 birds wearing my bands has been captured alive except in the vicinity of the stations and this is partly attributable to the scarcity of banders in the South. According to the report of the Biological Survey, along the Atlantic coast from Massachusetts to Washington, D. C., there are 84 stations that banded at least 100 birds apiece in the last fiscal year; west of the Mississippi River and north of the Ohio, there are 101 more, bringing the total to 185. In the larger area south of the Ohio, between the Mississippi and the eastern seaboard only 13 stations are listed as banding 100 birds or more. It is very obvious why our birds are not retaken at other stations as they are in the north.

There are doubtless many who have been attracting birds to their homes who could easily become very successful bird banders. Wouldn't it be great to know: Whether the same birds come to your feeding shelves each year? If the same birds nest in your garden year after year? If the same birds remate? If the young come back or where they go? How long birds live? How fast and how far they travel? Banding your birds is the only

possible way to find out. If Mr. Ganier had not banded a certain Cardinal in 1924, it would not have been learned that the same beautiful bird is still coming to his feeding shelf and that last year he and his mate reared three broods of young about his premises, though this Cardinal is now at least 11½ year old.

NASHVILLE, TENN., March, 1935.

REVIEWS. **"How to Know Our East Tennessee Birds,"** is the title of a 24-page, pocket-size booklet, written by John Bamberg and illustrated by H. P. Ijams, two of our well known Knoxville members. This well prepared little brochure is addressed to beginners in bird study including girl and boy scouts and guides the reader by easy stages through the fundamentals of bird study. There is included a list of the 75 best known summer birds, with pointers on the identification of each. Copies may be secured by addressing the J. F. G. Coffee Co., Knoxville, and enclosing 6 cents in stamps.—A. F. G.

BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR 1934: Papers and notes on Tennessee birds, which have appeared in other journals during the past year, are briefly cited below. We expect to make this record an annual feature.

In **The Auk** for April, 1934 (V. 51, p. 245), Mrs. A. R. Laskey has a note on "Gambel's and Harris's Sparrows in Tenn.," recording 2 of the former and one of the latter, trapped near Nashville (see also **Migrant**, 1934, p. 15). In the July number (V. 51, p. 371), A. F. Ganier has "The Status of the Duck Hawk in the Southeast and gives locations of 10 pair known to be nesting in Tennessee. In this same number, page 384, Compton Crook has "Cowbird Notes From Tenn.," recording an egg of this species in a nest of the Carolina wren.

In **The Wilson Bulletin** for Dec. (V. 46, p. 236-237), A. F. Ganier has "Further Notes on a very old Cardinal," giving notes on the home life of a male, banded Feb., 1924, and which is now (March, 1935) about 12 years old, or more.

In **Bird-banding** for July (V. 5, pp. 132-135), Mrs Laskey has three notes as follows: "Two pairs of Mockingbirds re-mate for the second year," "Brown Thrasher banding records from Nashville," and "White-crowned and Gambel's Sparrow Returns"; each note giving interesting data on the species in question. In the October number (pp. 172-175), she has an article, "Eastern Field Sparrow Migration at Nashville," which gives data and tentative conclusions, on the results of 1115 of these birds banded between October. 1931, and June, 1934.

In **The Journal of The Tennessee Academy of Science** for April (Vol. 9, pp.111-119), Mrs. Laskey has an article on "Bird Banding Experiences," in which she gives many details of methods and of the results obtained at her station at Nashville. In the October issue (pp. 278-287), J. M. Shaver and Compton Crook present the first installment of "Birds of the Campus of George Peabody College at Nashville." This covers seasonal distribution of the fifteen species classified as permanent residents.

Sixty-six papers and short notes which appeared in **The Migrant** during 1934, will be found listed on the last page of the December issue.—A. F. G.

WANTED:—Copies of **The Migrant**, Volume 2. In return for each four numbers sent to the editor, we will send this magazine for 1935 to one of your friends. Our supply of these numbers is getting low. Those who would complete their files should order their missing numbers now.

THE ROUND TABLE

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: Very few field trips have been made in the last three months and they were uneventful despite the fact that Mud Lake has again become a lake. The "bar-pit" south of the levee there, which last year was frequented by Shovelers, Lesser Scaup, Blue-winged Teals and number of Coots, has been devoid of waterfowl. A Coot was seen on one trip and a Scaup on another. On Mud Lake, on Jan. 1, we saw about 600 Mallards, 20 Black Ducks, 10-12 Pintails, 150 Ring-necked Ducks and a few Lesser Scaups; on Horn Lake there were 4 Ruddy Ducks. Fox, Song, and White-throated Sparrows were common in the weeds along the levee. On Feb. 17, 120 Pintails, 68 Mallards, 75 Ring-necked Ducks, and 50 Lesser Scaups were noted, also an adult Bald Eagle. On March 2 very few ducks were noted, however 90 Pintails graced the "bar-pit" just south of Lakeview, Miss., while auto after auto sped by on the main concrete highway which borders it on one side. This is the small body of water which has yielded several unusual waterbird records and on which the Pied-billed Grebes nested in 1932 and 1933. Indications are that there will be plenty of water for the Grebes this season.

A moderate number of Scaup and Ring-necked Ducks were seen at Mud Lake on the 10th of March. During a short visit on March 16 I failed to find any early migrants but the next day a party headed by Mrs. Coffey, McCamey, and Carney, found these early arrivals: 4 Great Yellowlegs, 7 Rough-winged Swallows, 1 Sora, and 10 Pectoral Sandpipers. On Mud Lake were noted 35 Mallards, 1 Black Duck, 12 Blue-winged Teal, 100 Ring-necked ducks, 10 Lesser Scaups, 115 Pintails, and 7 Coots. The first migrant reported for the season was the Purple Martin, on March 14 at a martin house at Miss Hutchinson's School.—BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis.

A STILT SANDPIPER (*Micropalama himantopus*) NEAR MEMPHIS: On Sept. 9, 1934, at North Lake, Tenn., 7 miles south-west of Memphis, I saw a bird which I believe to be of this species, in company with about 40 other shorebirds. Fred Carney and I managed to approach to within 20 feet of the bird, which was feeding with two Lesser Yellowlegs, the species which this sandpiper most closely resembles, and set down the following description in my notebook. "The body was shorter than that of the Yellowlegs but the long legs made it appear as tall; the bird however was distinctly different. The markings on the back and wings were of the "fish-scale" type whereas those of the Yellowlegs appeared as spots. The legs of the sandpiper were greenish while those of the Yellowlegs were yellow. There was a dark spot back of the eye and a white line through the eye; tail and rump were white; upper part of back dark grayish (a continuation of the neck color) and the underparts were faintly streaked. It fed with bill continually immersed in the water, swinging it from side to side. It was observed in sunlight." By comparing our notes and recollections on our return home with various color plates and descriptions, I hardly see how the bird could have been other than the Stilt Sandpiper and I therefore submit it as a sight record of this species.—FRANKLIN MCCAMEY, Memphis.

[There is a previous record from the Memphis area, three miles south of the Tennessee line, Mr. Coffee having reported five near Lakeview, Miss., on May 14, 1933, in our June issue of that year. This bird is to be expected as a rare transient in West Tennessee.—Ed.]

Two BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS were brought to me in 1934 to be mounted. One was taken near Franklin early in September and the other was shot near here last spring. Both were adult and were doubtless transient birds. A Barn Owl was sent to me during the summer along with numerous hawks.—W. H. SEDBERRY, Thompson Station.

AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK NEAR NASHVILLE: On Dec. 22, near the Airport 20 miles south of Nashville, the writer was so fortunate as to get a close view of one of these birds (*Buteo lagopus s. johannis*) and to identify it satisfactorily. It was sitting in the top of a tree in a small grove around which were many acres of flat sedge fields and in which Marsh Hawks have often been recorded. It was at first taken to be a large Red-tail but as I approached to within 75 feet, it leisurely left its perch and began to soar about nearby. To John Calhoun, who was with me, I pointed out the white inner half of the tail, the dark belly, and conspicuous blackish patches under the wings at the "wrist." This bird, which most nearly resembles the Red-tail, was a bit larger than that species and had longer wings and more supple flight. It disappeared over the fields and could not be found on a return trip a week later.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville.

WINTER NOTES, 1934-35: Starlings, which were so numerous last winter, were not much in evidence during the winter just past; only after the heavy snow of Jan. 20 did they become common.—Robins returned in considerable numbers a few days before Christmas and were more numerous through Jan. and Feb. than for several years.—Bronzed Grackles were quite absent during the past winter and only returned the middle of March.—Rusty Blackbirds are among our rarest winter visitants; four were seen by G. R. Mayfield and the writer on March 3 at the spring-marsh near Donelson.—Four eagles were reported taken since the first of the year, near Nashville. One of these, a young Golden Eagle, was captured uninjured on the ground, 30 miles south-east of Nashville on Jan. 2; it was shipped to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and released there. On Feb. 12, another immature of this species was trapped on Pilot Knob, 13 miles south of Murfreesboro. The Murfreesboro paper of Feb. 17, gave a news item from Shelbyville, that two eagles had been shot near there during the first half of February. Farmers near, who were interviewed by the writer, claim these eagles habitually take their lambs and kids.—The Cardinals at my home began their nest on March 17, using the same shrub as for the past eight years.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville.

AMERICAN PIPET RECORDS FOR THE NASHVILLE AREA: A flock of about fifty of these birds were seen Feb. 22, 1935, eleven miles from Murfreesboro near the Manchester Pike. They were first noted while bathing in a shallow rock-bottomed creek and were mistaken for Prairie Horned Larks. After having followed them to a field which was being plowed, I was able to observe the birds at about 30 feet. It was then noted that they wagged their tails from side to side and had black streaks on the sides. These two characteristics, observed also by Mr. Ganier and Mr. Todd who were with me, plainly marked them as Pipets. When approached, most of them would take flight but a few always remained behind and it was almost impossible to see them on the rough ground. Like the Prarie Horned Larks, however, the Pipets walked instead of hopped. No call was given while on the ground, but when flushed they gave a high twittering call as they flashed their white outer tail feathers. This call and flock formation is quite similar to that of the Prarie Horned Lark. This leads me to believe that if more of the birds recorded in Middle Tennessee during migrations as the latter were closely observed, we would have more Pipet records.

There are only a few records for the Nashville area; they are as follows: Dec. 4, 1921—1 near the corner of Tynes Lane and Hillsboro Road; Nov. 25, 1922—1 near the shore of Radnor Lake; Feb. 10, 1924—15 in a valley on Bell's Bend; Dec. 26, 1925—2 near shore of Radnor Lake; May 9, 1926—25 between Percy Warner Park and the Harpeth River; Nov. 13, 1927—2, and Oct. 12, 1930—4, both near the shore of Radnor Lake, and March 25, 1933—1, on the Peabody campus in Nashville. These records have been furnished me by Messrs. Compton Crook, A. F. Ganier, G. R. Mayfield, H. C. Monk and Vernon Sharp, Jr.—JOHN CALHOUN, Nashville.

A TENNESSEE WARBLER WINTERS IN NASHVILLE: Although this bird on its migrations through Tennessee sometimes remains into early November, the following instance of an individual which appeared in my yard from time to time during the past winter is of interest. My attention was first attracted to the bird by his characteristic "chip" and his staying down among the weeds near my home. I first observed it on November 17, then on December 8 and again on December 19. The bird remained until the second day of January and was not seen again after that time. It did not appear to be injured nor did it appear to be weakened from scarcity of food. Whether he decided to go southward and join others of his tribe or whether he perished during one of the cold days in January, no one will ever know.—G. R. MAYFIELD, Nashville.

RADNOR LAKE NOTES: The waterfowl on Radnor Lake for the winter of 1934-35 have been slightly different from those of the previous winter. The number of Coots has fallen off considerable this winter, however, the Black Ducks have increased greatly. Ring-necked and Lesser Scaup still constitute the bulk of the duck population. The Golden-eye and Bufflehead have remained all winter on the lake. The Loon appeared December 13th and remained at least to March 24th. Horned and Pied-billed Grebes have appeared intermittently throughout Jan., Feb., and March. Six male Shovelers were recorded March 24th, which constitutes the only record on the Lake for two years. The American Merganser has been another unusual duck for this area; a single bird remained throughout the winter months.—GEORGE B. WOODRING, Nashville.

A BARN OWL CASUALTY: During the severe ice storm of March 18-19, 1934, a large old oak tree, which stood upon the campus of the Tennessee College at Murfreesboro, fell from the weight of the ice on its branches and was split open. In the hollow trunk, a Barn Owl was found, it having been killed in the crash. No one had suspected that there was a "Monkey-faced" owl living on the campus but, according to the books, these quiet and harmless owls are often present in a community without giving a clue to their presence. Prof. George Davis, of this city, tells me that he knows of at least three of these owls having been brought in by people from the country during the last four years.—H. O. TODD, Murfreesboro.

NOVEMBER WOODCOCKS: On November 19, 1934, a boy brought me a woodcock, having shot it north of Knoxville in Union County. This bird I have mounted. Another woodcock was brought to me on November 28, 1933, it having also come from Union County. It was found dead and apparently had been dead several days.—S. A. OGDEN, Knoxville.

A LONG EARED OWL AT KNOXVILLE: On December 22 last, an owl of this species was taken about five miles south of Knoxville, Tenn. It was turned over to Mr. S. A. Ogden who has mounted the specimen. We regard this as a very rare bird here.—H. P. IJAMS, Knoxville.

AN ADDITION TO THE LIST OF WINTER BIRDS OF NORTH-EAST TENN.: To our list, published in the September, 1933, MIGRANT, and supplemented in the issue of March last, the following may be added. Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). May now be listed as a very rare winter resident. During the winter just past, one of these birds remained continuously in a small grove of heavy timber near Johnson City. It was observed on seven different dates during Dec., 1934, and Jan and Feb., 1935.—BRUCE P. TYLER AND ROBERT B. LYLE, *Johnson City.*

Make it a rule to add something each year to your equipment for bird study. Field glasses, a camera and accessories, bird houses for your grounds, books for reference and study, etc., etc. Procure these items from our advertisers for by patronizing us as they do, they help to make this magazine a possibility.

LIFE LISTS: The 1935 migration season is at hand and with it comes the possibility of that thrill that comes from adding a new bird to ones "Life List." The season also suggests that it is time to take inventory and bring your list up to date. The following form is suggested as a foundation to build upon. List the names of the birds you have already identified and those you hope to add, on the left side of your sheet and leave room for four columns to the right. In these may be checked the following:

1—Birds observed in your own immediate local area. This sort of list will be valuable in developing the study of Tennessee birds and we owe that much to the T. O. S.

2—Birds observed in your division of the State (West, Middle or East Tenn.). This is advisable because of the diverse geography of Tennessee and because of the concentration of your study.

3—Birds observed in all portions of Tennessee.

4—A composite list of the birds you have certainly identified throughout the entire United States (or the world, if you have had opportunities abroad). This list will need to carry the place and date of observation.

Another list of value would be one of birds whose nests you had found, giving notations as to date, place and eggs or young in each.

The preparation of such an inventory might do much to systematize and stimulate your bird study. If you do not already have a written "Life List," start building one from Mr. Ganier's **A Distributional List of Tennessee Birds** in which you will find those which are to be expected in the State. If you have traveled beyond the State, refer to Chapman's **Handbook** or to the **A.O.U. Check List** to recall observations. When your list is complete, compare with that of other members; it will either give you a feeling of satisfaction or spur you on to better field study.—JOHN BAMBERG, Knoxville.

MEETINGS: The **Nashville** division of the T. O. S. has the following Monday meeting dates on its program, together with a tentative list of speakers. March 4 Vernon Sharp, Jr., "Old time bird books"; March 18, J. M. Shaver, "Ferns of Middle Tenn."; April 1, Mrs. F. C. Laskey, on some results from bird-banding; April 15, Round Table notes by members; April 29, Warren F. Eaton (N. Y.) on Hawks and Owls; May 12 (Sunday), Annual Spring Field Day; May 20, general round table discussion on nesting; June 3, summary of the year's work and plans for summer activities.

The **Knoxville** division (E. T. O. S.) has scheduled Wednesday meetings and week end field trips for the following dates: March 17, Field trip.—John Sevier territory, Louis Hofferbert in charge; April 3 evening program, H. P. Ijams in charge; April 21, Field trip,—Elrado and Cades Cove, Bob Burch in charge; May 1, evening program—Brockway Crouch in charge; May 5, Annual Spring Field Day and census; May 19, Field trip—Big Ridge Park, John Bamberg in charge; June 3, Field trip—"The Jump Off" in Great Smokies Nat. Park, Brockway Crouch; June 5, evening program, Dr. E. B. Powers; June 16, Field trip—Greenbrier Cove, Dr. E. B. Powers in charge.

The **Memphis** division announces Monday meetings for the evenings of March 18, April 1, 15, 29, May 6, 20, June 3 and 17. Their annual Spring Field Day will take place May 5 at a place to be chosen later.

We urge all our members who can, to attend these local meetings. A list of local officers was printed in our last issue.

OUR NEW COVER is the work of Regional Editor and Past-president, Harry P. Ijams of Knoxville. Although our trusty owl was none the worse for wear after five years service, we felt that a more inclusive design, and one which would better hint at the contents within, would be in order. Mr. Ijams has nicely caught the idea and his fine technique has enabled him to portray it. Many thanks, H. P.

THE MIGRANT

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"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough, it is not necessary to go beyond it."

EDITORIALS

The President of the Tennessee Ornithological Society regrets to announce the resignation of Mr. George B. Woodring as Editor-Treasurer of the State organization. He has held this office since the founding of this journal and has devoted a great deal of time to the work. The Society is much indebted to him and wishes him success in his new undertakings. From a mimeographed publication of six pages, our official organ has grown to a sixteen-page printed journal and is now recognized as one of the best publications of its kind in the field.

The executive committee decided to ask Mr. Albert F. Ganier to take over the editorship for the present and he has agreed. Mr. Ganier has been acting as Associate Editor during these years and is fully acquainted with this journal as well as with the other ornithological magazines. By reason of his long experience as well as his wide acquaintance with bird students throughout the State he is eminently qualified to assume the task. He has re-appointed the present staff of associates to help in getting out the 1935 volume. May I bespeak for him the active co-operation of all readers of this magazine.—G. R. MAYFIELD.

With this issue **The Migrant** enters its sixth year and is thus able to look back upon its first block of five volumes with considerable satisfaction. A great deal of information has been presented on the birds of our State and our members have come to know, or at least know of, many others in Tennessee who are interested in the study of ornithology. No such progress could have been made without an adequate official organ. Toward the future we look with confidence. Most of our contributors are unaccustomed to writing for publication but as they "get the hang" of our style and learn to be on the lookout for items that will make good "copy," our contents will improve accordingly. The field of bird study is inexhaustible and the unfolding of the life histories of our birds is ever an absorbing topic. Your Editor wishes these pages to reflect the exhiliration and pleasure that is yours as you learn new fact and the chief mission of this journal shall be to enable you to share your findings with others. We need more detailed notes on the home life of birds, their manner of courtship, how they build their nests, what they eat, how they roost, etc., etc.

These notes should come from all portions of the State and we hope to number fifty members as contributors during 1935. Your Editor's "copy basket" should be kept well supplied at all times in order that he may be able to pick seasonable and appropriate articles for each number. With the active co-operation of our members, **The Migrant** will come to be more and more welcome if not indispensable.—A. F. G.

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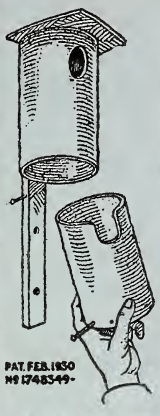

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DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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THE MIGRANT

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AN APRIL VISIT TO THE REELFOOT CRANE-TOWNS

BY FRANKLIN M'CAMEY

At one p.m. on April 27, we set out from Walnut Log Lodge, rowing up Bayou du Chien. The party consisted of Mr. A. F. Ganier, Mr. H. O. Todd and John Calhoun of Nashville, Dr. Steagal and Mr. Evans of Illinois, Mr. W. M. Walker of Knoxville, a guide, and the writer. We rowed some three miles up the bayou and after portaging the boats across 200 yards of land, began the tedious half-mile poling job through the willows and rushes. Finally we reached Otter Basin and "Little Cranetown." And what a sight it was to the writer, who had never seen the like before. American Egrets and Great Blue Herons flew about, voicing their harsh, guttural notes, and rising from the trees. A flock of 40 Black Vultures commenced circling about the nest trees and their presence here was viewed by us with suspicion. A large nest tree with a small maple growing against its side was located, and the ascent begun, first on the maple until we reached the first limbs of the big old cypress, then upon it. The final stage was made with the assistance of a rope thrown over a limb above.

This colony consists of over 200 nests, and about 450 adult birds. The Egrets with their aigrettes and the Herons with their plumed crests sat near, scolding, or flew excitedly about, while the Vultures and a lone Water Turkey (Anhinga) circled overhead. Pictures were taken of the squawking adults, of the few young, and of the numerous blue eggs in the nests. As the sun dropped lower, we descended and began the tiresome journey back, after a memorable afternoon. Earlier in the day, out on the open lake two Common Terns, an Osprey, an American Bittern, Scaup, Teal and Coots had been seen; these brought the total list for the day to 86 species.

Early the next morning, we motored south to Samburg and were joined there by Mrs. L. D. Hicks and A. C. McCloskey of Columbus, Ohio. The State motorboat towed our rowboats three miles across the lake, passing a flock of several hundred Tree Swallows, a "raft" of Cormorants and many Coots enroute. Our objective was "Big Cranetown," in the swamp the west side of the lake. We left the motorboat at the edge of the lily pads and paddled through them in the three small boats. When the lilies ended, the two-mile struggle through the thickets, saw-grass, willows and flooded forests began. Nobody knew exactly the direction to go; we merely followed the flights after the Herons and Egrets as they flapped back and forth between "Big Cranetown" and the open lake. Soon we could hear the cries and squawks of the birds at their nests, and suddenly we passed from the willow growths into the stand of ancient cypress where the nests were located. As many as 40 nests were in some of the big trees, many of which were over 100 feet tall, and some were six feet in diameter. They grew in water from two to three feet deep. The excited birds flew about in great numbers, much as the day before, except that there wr about fiv times as many.

Repeating the previous day's procedure, we climbed some of the large trees and viewed our surroundings. In one tree were 14 nests, 2 of the Cormorant, 5 of the Great Blue Heron, and 7 of the Egret, all with eggs except one with two young. The nests were great loosly-woven platforms of large twigs; some were two feet across and a foot thick; some hollowed, others mere flat

platforms from which it seemed the eggs would roll off. From our position we had a wonderful view of our surroundings. In the green cypress trees on all sides of us were perched the white, graceful Egrets, in every conceivable position, with their plumes waving in the breeze. We could count nearly 500 in sight at one time. A few Great Blues sat about, appearing uninterested in the proceedings, while dozens of Cormorants perched near, or sat on eggs in the next tree, and with necks extended and orange throat-pouches vibrating, showed their disapproval of our intrusion by harsh, rattling, croaking sounds. Several hundred nests of the four species, many with eggs and some with old birds sitting on them, could be seen from our tree. We took pictures and collected a few eggs, and having had our fill of the beautiful view, we descended to eat lunch. In the water, under the nest trees, were found many dead fish of worthless varieties dropped from the nests and also a few young that had been killed by the fall from above. This colony numbered over a thousand nests, and hence somewhat over two thousand birds.

After lunch we waded about, trying unsuccessfully to climb several trees, while one of our party, with his climbing spurs, ascended a large tree containing twenty nests, mostly of the Cormorant, and secured additional photographs. Finally the writer found a tall tree in the open that was well branched. After some difficulty he reached the swaying top, nearly ninety feet above the water, and collected a set of Cormorant eggs. But the sun was sinking, and not wishing to be caught in the forest when darkness fell, we began to start back. As the writer began a sliding descent from his lofty perch, the surrounding Egret-studded cypress, the pair of Red-shouldered Hawks soaring overhead, the Cormorants croaking farewell, and the hazy hills far in the background, presented a beautiful picture. Then he was back in the mud and water below, and soon the trip back through the dense flooded swamp began. On the way out to the motorboat we espied a hitherto unknown Bald Eagle's nest in the top of a tall dead cypress, and an American Bittern was flushed from the "sawgrass" a little further on.

The rest of the trip was enjoyable, being pulled behind the motorboat. A great raft of about 500 Cormorants "took off" from the water only a short distance ahead, and Coots frequently pattered along the surface at our approach. Three Canvasbacks and forty Scaup floated a short distance away, as two Wood Duck and some Teal whistled by overhead and Herring Gulls flapped lazily along. This eventful day ended when the boats bumped the dock at Samburg at 4 p. m., and the total list for the day was 80 species.

MEMPHIS, TENN., May 1, 1935.

IN SEARCH OF THE DUCK HAWK

BY BRUCE P. TYLER

When early ornithologists came to choose a scientific name for the Duck Hawk or Peregrine Falcon, they decided upon *Falco peregrinus anatum*, and this was derived as follows: Falco from Falx (Latin), a sickle. Peregrinus from (Latin) per, through, and ager, a field or land. Anatum from (Greek) ana, up, and temno, to cut. Hence, the bird with sickle-like talons that searches through the fields for its prey which is duly torn, or cut up, and needless to say, devoured. This is the species used during Medieval times in the ancient sport of falconry. The strong, the swiftest, the most daring of birds. It is now rare in American but where found it usually breeds along the water courses, nesting in high cliffs, and feeds to some extent on water-loving birds.

On March 17, 1935, J. D. Roller, Howard Long, Robert B. Lyle and the writer essayed to discover the nest of the Duck Hawk, a perilous task at the best. For years we have known that the Duck Hawks nested in the cliffs along Holston River. In fact, we knew the very cliff where they dwelt.

Formerly, Mr. Lyle had collected their eggs from this same locality and we were all hopeful that we would return rewarded with a clutch of their beautiful eggs and photographs of the nest. We started shortly after noon, drove as near as possible to our rugged cliff, then afoot, over two ridges and came to the home of the Duck Hawk, but no falcon was in evidence. Slowly we continued our climb into the cliffs and continuously the going became steeper and harder. Here Mr. Lyle suggested that I remain on a point that commanded a view of the face of the cliff that was supposed to harbor the nest, to see if the birds flew out as the rest of the party advanced to a point where a rope ladder could be dropped over the cliff, but I had no idea of remaining behind. I might have done so had I known the nature of the cliff we were bound for; however, I continued with the party. When we approached the supposed nesting site, no hawk could be seen and we proceeded to roll a few large stones over the cliff, and to our joy, out came the Duck Hawk, cackling and screaming, very evidently disturbed from its nest by the falling stones. Now, the detail of the nesting site was somewhat as follows: We were on a narrow ledge, say 350 to 400 feet above the river, above us a sheer cliff, below us a sheer cliff, the sloping ledge, about ten feet wide, supported a few small trees. A little further along, the ledge it widened slightly and a cave opened into the upper cliff, the home of the Vultures.

Mr. Lyle, (Bob), commander-in-chief of the expedition, joyously began to get the rope ladder and life-line ready for the descent over the face of the lower cliff. Mr. Roller, the youngest and fittest, made the descent. It tested my courage to see that splendid boy go over the edge of the cliff. In fact, I almost had the "jitters," an absolutely forbidden thing in such surroundings, but I must admit that I had to take myself rigidly in hand and it was with greatest relief that I saw the climber's head and shoulders, and very shortly all of him, come up over the edge of that yawning abyss and hurry up the life-line to the rest of the party. All the king's horses and all the king's men could not have induced me to go over that cliff. I kept all my anxiety to myself, but it hindered my usefulness, and I sought a sunny nook in the upper cliff where I could observe the flight of the falcons, while twice again the intrepid climber went over the cliff in vain effort to locate the sought for nest. I had learned long since to "bend a bowlin' on a bight of rope" and it was my only service to the expendition. I had tied the life-line firmly and without possibility of slipping about the manly chest of the climber, and it never failed him.

As the rest of the party searched the cliffs, I lay in my sunny nook in the upper cliff, watching the flight of the Duck Hawks, beautiful beyond description as they flew back and forth over the river and along the craggy cliff, scolding, screaming, cackling, because we were very near their nest. Poising high above, they would fold their wings nearly to their bodies and dive, once at a Vulture that seemed to annoy them, frequently seemingly at nothing, possibly just for the joy of flying, the joy of strength and the skill of ages. Again they would soar back and forth. My field glass gave me a near view of all this. I was wonderfully impressed, for I had never before observed their flight so closely. Possibly no one but us knew of their presence here and there was satisfaction in feeling that while nearly anyone else than a bird lover would have thought they should be shot down because they were hawks, our viewpoint was one of admiration and nothing could have induced us to kill one of them.

The sun was getting low as we turned our weary feet homeward down the narrow ledge, down the rock-strewn bluff to the river, over the two ridges to our waiting car and homeward, tired, hungry and disappointed, but loving it. Meanwhile, father and mother Duck Hawk returned to find their nest intact, to cluck to their precious eggs or fledgelings, mindful that their ability to choose an impregnable stronghold for their nesting had saved them.

JOHNSON CITY, TENN., April 1, 1935.

NOTES ON SOME EVERYDAY BIRDS

BY JAMIE ROSS TIPPENS

There is drama and excitement in the everyday happenings in the bird world, even in so small and prosaic a place as a suburban yard. For those of us who love to peek into the family affairs of our feathered friends and follow the fortunes and misfortunes that are theirs as they mate and build and rear their young, there is much that reminds us of the daily doings in a village of people, like ourselves. In turn, they have their moments of happiness, of anxiety, of play, of fear, of conquest and of toil. Sometimes I set down in my notebook the chief events of the day that I have noted in the little "bird village" that centers about my home and at the request of the Editor, am giving some of the notes below.

"April 3, 1934—Pair of Brown Thrashers building a nest in thick rose vine on the fence. April 4—the nest was abandoned when only about half done and another nest has been begun a few feet away. April 6—nest seems to be nearly completed but the Thrashers are on the ground some distance from the nest apparently disturbed because a man is working nearby in the yard. April 14—The Thrashers are at the nest; I can't see into it because it is too deeply hidden among vicious thorns.

"May 13—Maryland Yellowthroats have a nest in a low bush; top of nest about 15 inches above the ground. I failed to set down the date on which the first egg was laid. The first egg, however, remained in the nest two days before the second was laid; the third and fourth were laid on consecutive days. Incubation was not begun until after the fourth egg was laid. When there were two eggs, the nest was nearly destroyed by a man who was cutting the weeds. Although it was left partially exposed the nest was not harmed and the birds did not desert it as I feared they would.

"May 21—Robins seem to be having a hard time finding enough food for their young; the ground is so hard and dry. One young Robin with tiny pin-feathers, fell out of its nest in my side yard and, the night being chilly, died from exposure.

"May 21—Young Thrashers are out of their nest in the thick rose vine. Three in number; must have hatched some time ago as their feathers are well grown and they are nearly as large as their parents. One adult of this pair has a leg band, which seems to bother the bird at times. I did not band this bird.

"May 22—More Robins falling from the nest. They have nothing in their crops. I am trying to feed them on a mixture of egg and mashed Irish potatoes. They are too weak to open their mouths and I am compelled to force-feed them. I have two on my hands. About birds falling from their nests, John Calhoun says the young Crested Flycatchers often fall prematurely from the nests which the old birds build in his Martin box. May 22 (later in the day)—The young Robins seem to be getting stronger and I am placing them in the yard where their visibly distressed parents can reach them. Feel sure a fresh worm once in a while will benefit them more than my egg and potato mixture.

"May 23—Weather warmer; brought the young Robins in the house and kept them overnight. Put them in the yard early next morning. They are now strong enough to scramble to the back of a bench, where the parent birds are feeding them meagerly. They can't fly yet.

May 24—I left a cup of the egg mixture in the yard and find the Thrashers literally cramming it down the throats of their overgrown youngsters. The parents are nesting again in the top of a large plum tree. The banded one must be the female for it is on the nest most of the time.

"May 26—Yellowthroat sitting on her four eggs; is very shy and darts off when I come near.

"May 29—Tragic discovery; this morning I found three Thrashers sitting on the edge of my bird bath, and one adult among them was all humped up with feathers ruffled. A lump of something in the water proved to be the

other parent, dead and stiff. This dead bird had the leg band, number B-215608. I found that it had been banded about two years before by Mrs. Cochran, at her station five blocks south. May 29—Found an adult Robin dead, in another watering place. May 30—Another dead Robin at a drinking place and a sick Thrasher is near the spring in the back yard. It had great difficulty in trying to fly and finally hid in some weeds. Called Dr. Harwood of the Vanderbilt biology department and he very kindly came over and decided the birds were getting poison of some kind. The dead Robin, upon examination was found to have its gall bladded infested with parasitic worms but since the bird was fat and well plumaged, these were evidently not responsible for its death. A small amount of arsenic was present in the intestines. I later discovered that a neighbor had been putting out rat poison on bread, scattered in her yard, to kill these rodents. I then increased the variety and amount of food at my feeding stations in order to keep my birds at home.

"June 1—The Brown Thrashers had two eggs in their new nest today.

"June 2—Two young Maryland Yellowthroats have hatched, in the nest found May 13. June 3—Now there are three young and an egg which is addled. June 4—The nest was found tilted and two of the young were on the ground. This was discovered by my children, Sara and J. Ross, and their friend, Bobby Lockcart. Bobby used to shoot any bird he could hit but he is now their protector. As evidence of his "conversion," it was Bobby who came running to me for help when the young Yellowthroats were in danger. I put the nest back in the fork of the bush and the babies back in the nest. One naked little thing had three big black ants fastened so tightly to it that I had trouble in dislodging them.

"June 5—The little Yellowthroats seem to be thriving. Found the addled egg on the ground; presume the old birds threw it out as it was in the nest with the young the day before. Parent birds are feeding their young on green worms. I should say the mother instead of parents for I haven't seen the male bird feed them at all. June 6—only two young in the nest this morning. I am suspicious of a Blue Jay that I have seen hanging around near the nest. The two remaining young have downy feathers. June 7—The little fellows have acquired a fairly good coat of feathers.

"June 10—The Yellowthroats' nest is empty; the young probably left yesterday or this morning. The two adult birds are in some nearby bushes, playing hide and seek with me as is their custom. Hope the young were not drowned by a deluge of rain that fell last night."

And so on through the summer, the autumn, the cold of winter, then back to spring, when the avian cycle begins all over again. There is always something going on among the birds and right well do they entertain those of us who watch them from day to day.

(MRS. C. B. TIPPENS), NASHVILLE, TENN.

REELFOOT LAKE IN 1875: In Kellebrew and Safford's "Resources of Tennessee," in the sketch of Lake County, on page 1123, we find this: ". . . in Reelfoot Lake there is the greatest abundance of excellent fish, such as trout, perch, cat, buffalo and other varieties found in Western waters. In the southern and northeastern sections of the county, a few bears, deer and turkeys are found, and on the river and lake there are immense numbers of ducks and geese, and a good many swan, all of which are hunted by professional hunters, who annually send many tons of them to market. Trappers, too, are very successful in trapping beavers, raccoons, otters and wildcats, all of which are found in considerable numbers, especially in the lake and along its banks."

GOOSE POND AND ITS MARSH BIRDS

BY ALBERT F. GANIER

Birds of the marshes have always interested me exceedingly. Probably it is because they are rare and because even well experienced bird students know very little about them or their habits in this part of the country. The bird books are practically blank with respect to the nesting of marsh birds in the Central South. Then too, marshes in Tennessee are now a rarity, for drainage ditches have bled them of the water which makes them what they were and now most of them are commonplace fields or sedge patches full of crayfish holes.

In the minds of many, marshes are abhorrent. They are held to be the abiding places of malaria and miasma, the hatcheries of snakes and snapping turtles, and the idea of wading about in them, shoe-top deep in mud and gum-boot deep in pungent waters, is repellent to the uniniated. But when one has once overcome these little inhibitions and taken the pains to wade a few marshes with an "open mind" he finds them the most interesting of all places. The plant life and the animal life is found to be abundant, varied and totally different from that which can be found upon dry land areas.

For a good many years the writer has taken pains to locate and explore every marsh of consequence which he could locate in Tennessee and in this way has accumulated considerable information about the marsh birds which are known to nest within the State. It was only this spring, however, that it was his good fortune to be able to explore the most extensive one of all, Goose Pond, in the southwest corner of Grundy County—about midway between Murfreesboro, and Chattanooga. Messrs H. O. Todd of Murfreesboro, John Calhoun, and the writer, of Nashville, arrived on the scene the night before and early in the morning of May 26th we were at the shore. Goose Pond covers about fifty acres and is really a shallow flat-bottomed lake, about two feet deep and with the exception of a few open pools, it is entirely grown over with marsh grass and various water plants. About the edges and well out from the bank were patches of blue flags and pickerel weed, both showy with blossoms. Water lily pads were all about, in patches here and there, and a thick submerged growth of plant life slowed down our wading to some extent. There were no trees in the pond but there was a growth of wild rose and button bushes along its banks. As we waded in we noticed innumerable little duck trails all through the growth and were not surprised a few moments later when a Blue-winged Teal arose and winged away to the other side. Next, a Wood Duck came flying rapidly by and from then on we flushed one or the other sort every now and then. There must have been at least half a dozen of each species, not counting young unable to fly. Of these we captured a four weeks old Teal and a ten day old Wood Duck. A pair of the latter were flushed from the ground in the swampy woods a hundred feet from shore and we were quite certain that a new brood was here being escorted from their nest tree to the water. The Blue-winged Teals build on the ground in the grass but we did not find their nests. Red-winged Blackbirds were nesting here and there in the marsh, having tucked their compact straw nests down in the tufts of coarse green grass about a foot above the water. Most of them held four blue eggs marked with black scrawls about the larger end. Green Herons, "Shite-pokes," flew lazily about or eyed us suspiciously from a nearby tree.

Presently a large brown bird arose ahead of us and flapped heavily away to alight in the grass some distance ahead. An American Bittern it was, and here, at this late date and with ideal habitat, it must surely be breeding. As yet there had been no Tennessee record of its nesting although the writer has flushed it in several other marshes about the State in summer and felt sure it was a breeding bird though a rare one. We set about looking most carefully for the nest and after considerable search found it a hundred yards away. The nest held but one buffy, unmarked egg and it was

found to be addled and deserted. We began to search anew and, 40 feet away, found an occupied nest, this one with three young about five days old. They resembled little buffy colored powder puffs with large toes and legs and heavy beaks. As they hissed at us in a most threatening manner, they attempted to back off the edge of the nest and had to be set back repeatedly while being photographed. (On a visit four days later, all the young except one were found to have wandered away in the grass.) The nests were a pile of marsh grass about 13 inches across, quite flat on top and built up about 8 inches above the knee-deep water. We were much elated with this first Tennessee nest record. Entering a long arm of the pond, which was thickly grown with long grass, we began to look for nests of the King Rail. Presently a Least Bittern arose a few steps ahead and later others were seen; however, their nests were not found. More Red-winged Blackbird nests were observed here and the ducks flew past us on the way to tend their young. Searching closely in the long grass for Rail nests we presently found one containing a single egg, built as usual about a foot above the water and well hidden from above. Rail eggs are greenish buff color, spotted over with dull brown and lavender.

Calhoun was some distance back and presently called out that he too had found a nest of the King Rail, with six eggs. I told him to tie a white string above it and I would photograph it on the way back. When I returned I found that Todd had stopped to look at the eggs as he passed on. A glance showed me, however, that they were not those of the King Rail at all but were those of the Purple Gallinule and the six nearly fresh eggs in the nest made a beautiful picture. The eggs were about the size of those of the King Rail but had a rich pinkish-buff background dotted over with spots of bright reddish brown. The nest was similar to that of the Rail but was smaller and was a platform of rushes built in the marsh grass about 15 inches above knee deep water. The Purple Gallinule is a semi-tropical species, the most beautifully colored of all marsh birds, and is not known to nest elsewhere in the State except at Reelfoot Lake where the writer found it nesting in 1923.

What a wonderful place for a wild life refuge, we thought, and what a splendid place for them to rear their young and to give transient birds a safe stopping place on migration, if adequately protected. What a splendid variety of plant life had established itself here through the centuries and what a creditable quota of marsh birds clung to the place, yet at that a mere remnant of those which formerly existed in the State. I had spotted some fresh excavation over on one shore so went there to examine. To my surprise I saw that a drainage ditch had been opened up to the very edge of the lake and it was but a day's work to complete it and drain the marsh. From a native who came by, I learned that the work would be begun again in a few days and finished up. "The Government is doin' it to stop malary, they says, but we aint been bothered by mosquitoes and we hate to see old Goose Pond go," he added. Here truly was an opportunity for conservation so when I returned to Nashville the following day I made a written report and protest on the matter to Mr. Damon Headden, State Director of Conservation, and he in turn took it up with authorities in charge of the drainage and had the work held up. There were no mosquitoes about the place and subsequent examination showed none of their larvae in the water. Suffice it to say for the present that every effort will be made to save Goose Pond and to acquire it for a wild life refuge.

Completing our wading at noon we had lunch and motored forty miles to a small but long established marsh near Morrison. On the way we picked up a little dead Sora Rail from the highway; it proved to be a female and was not in breeding condition so was evidently a transient. The marsh covered only about two acres, was about knee-deep although there were some deeper holes, and was thickly grown with long grass. It was rich in bird life and

here we flushed two King Rails, several Least Bitterns, finding two of their nests, and, best of all, found two more nests of the American Bittern, not more than 50 feet apart, each containing small young. Not knowing of any other marsh in that part of the country we motored homeward feeling well repaid with the information gathered during an eventful day.

NASHVILLE, TENN., June, 1935.

BIRD BANDING BREVITIES—NO. 5

BY MRS. F. C. LASKEY

The record of the past season for *White-crowned Sparrows* is interesting. There were 70 individuals banded and 13 birds returned that had been banded in previous years. The repeat records indicate that at least 23 of the new arrivals and 6 of the returns spent the winter about the station. On March 24, 1935, the third *Gambel's Sparrow* of record at my station was banded. It was in adult plumage. The first spring capture of a *Lincoln's Sparrow* this year was on March 27th; 6 individuals were trapped later, the last date being May 22nd. *Field Sparrows*, as reported in the March MIGRANT, continue to appear in much decreased numbers at the station. March and April, like January and February, 1935, have been far below the same period of the two years previous in numbers; March and April, 1933 show 196 banded; 1934 there were 197; but in 1935, the total for the two months was only 87. A few individuals have furnished interesting records; F-70913, banded October 13, 1931, was retaken October 9, 1932. He returned on March 28, 1933, remaining for nesting until late summer. He returned again April 3, 1934, was here until August, and returned March 24, 1935 for his fourth year. H-17838, an adult female, was banded September 9, 1932 and also comes each year for nesting. Her return dates are April 1, 1933; March 15, 1934; March 20, 1935. Her records show that she, like F-70913, is at least four years old. She has been trapped 156 times. F-91609, banded June 18, 1932 as an adult male is another old bird. He is a summer resident, returning March 16, 1933; March 17, 1934, March 14, 1935. F-91632 banded June 23, 1932, immature female, has apparently closed her interesting record for she disappeared last November after spending practically all of her life at the station since her arrival. In her two and a half years as a permanent resident, she was removed from the traps 216 times. The most persistent repeater, however, is H-38833, a male, banded July 18, 1933, returning March 13, 1934 and repeating 193 times before migrating November 1st. He came back March 19, 1935 and by the last of May, had been captured 112 times. *Indigo Buntings* have been abundant at the station this spring. In May there were 23 banded and 10 returned that had been banded other years. There have been 9 *Brown Thrasher* returns during March, April and May. The most interesting of these is A-250729, a male banded as an adult in 1931, returning each spring for nesting. This bird is therefore at least 5 years old. He carried food from the drop trap to the nestlings, and when they were nearly full grown, brought this year's brood of three under the trap in May to feed them. His mate of last year also returned a few days earlier than he, but was already mated with another bird. She did not remain for nesting nearby. A *Bronzed Grackle*, banded at the Belle Meade substation October 3, 1934, was killed January 25, 1935 by C. A. Gentry 7 miles east of Rienzi, Miss. A Bronzed Grackle made a rather remarkable homing record recently. He was banded May 1st, deported, and released about 3 miles north. His return was not anticipated but he was seen and recognized a few days later on account of his distinctive banding. May 13th he was trapped, deported 4 miles northeast late that afternoon. At noon the following day he was retrapped at the station. At 4:30 p. m. (May 14) he was released 6½ miles

(Continued on Page 33)

WATERBIRDS OF EAST TENNESSEE

By JAMES TRENT, JR.

The eastern portion of Tennessee, with its generally hilly or mountainous terrain, is not at all well situated for the study of waterfowl, since the majority of our streams are small, more or less swift, and with few of the exposed and open margins so appreciated by shorebirds; neither do we have many lakes to attract ducks and geese, having near Knoxville only one lake worthy of the name and which, although it is our largest, contains only about 70 acres. This one lake, however, Lake Andrew Jackson (formerly known as Dead Horse Lake) is largely responsible for the variety of our waterbird records. The Tennessee River, flowing through Knoxville, together with the French Broad which joins it 5 miles to the East, have also been productive of records. In this hilly country marshes are few and almost without exception are small, furnishing little desirable cover to marsh-loving birds. For these reasons, while we have a number of records of species, the total numbers are small, while species may be numerous. In this way we differ from West Tennessee where waterfowl in the thousands are not uncommon. For example, on October 28, 1934, a day's trip by canoe down the French Broad river as a sort of preliminary survey of the duck hunting situation disclosed 105 ducks by actual count, mostly in small "gangs" of from 2 to 17 individuals. We were very pleased, since that was a large number of ducks to be seen over that particular stretch of water. That may seem peculiar to persons in middle and west Tennessee who are accustomed to seeing ducks by the hundreds and thousands, but it illustrates very well the small scale on which we are forced to observe the waterfowl. Too, we are forced to watch most of our ducks in flight or at long range, since most of them are flushed either by boat or by observers on shore, from the margins of streams or ponds. The exceptions to this situation are those birds observed on Lake Andrew Jackson, where shooting or trespassing is not allowed and the ducks are not so shy.

It must be remembered that references to comparative abundance are from the observations of the various bird students who have contributed their notes and from the information we are able to collect from hunters. If we but had the records of more of the ducks killed by hunters certain of these ducks would probably not seem so rare. However, we have a very good way of locating unusual ducks, since it is the habit of many hunters to bring the heads of ducks they cannot identify to certain of our local ornithologists. We owe a great deal to the diligence of certain members who have made river trips and, more particularly, trips to Lake Andrew Jackson during the migration seasons.

It is hoped that this list will serve to compare the abundance of

waterbirds in East Tennessee before and after the completion of Norris Dam and the establishing of the immense lake above it, along the Clinch River. There is no doubt that the lake will furnish a sanctuary and resting place for transient waterfowl and we hope that they will gather there in larger numbers than we are used to seeing here.

The writer wishes to express his deep appreciation to Mr. A. F. Ganier of Nashville for the initial stimulus to this activity; also for the use of his "Distributional List of the Birds of Tennessee" as an outline for this list, and for the many helpful suggestions and additions he so kindly provided. Acknowledgement is also hereby made to Mr. Bruce P. Tyler and Mr. Robert B. Lyle of Johnson City, Tennessee for their kind assistance; to Mr. H. P. Ijams and other members of the Knoxville branch of the Tennessee Ornithological Society and to Dr. Earl O. Henry and Mr. Arthur Ogden for notes from specimens in their collections. The frequent visits of W. M. Walker and George Foster to Lake Andrew Jackson during 1934-35 have been of tremendous value in adding not only additional data but new occurrence records.

The local branch of the T.O.S. has a small collection of mounted birds at Knoxville and these are referred to in the notes which follow. The figures shown in parentheses, refer to previously published data upon the species in question, a key to these citations being appended to this article.

COMMON LOON ---------- *Gavia immer immer*

The loon is rather rare here but occasionally one is brought in or reported by duck hunters. The Society's collection includes a mounted specimen taken here and mounted by Mr. Ogden, Nov. 23, 1932.

PIED-BILLED GREBE ---------- *Podilymbus podiceps podiceps*

Our only common grebe; a fairly common transient. The "didapper" known to everyone. They arrive here in August and may be found occasionally on the cold mountain rivers as well as the larger rivers and lakes. A pair makes a few days' stop on the little lake at the Scout Camp at Elkmont each August to provide entertainment and study for the Boy Scout Campers.

WHITE PELICAN ---------- *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*

A single transient bird was observed at Knoxville, on the afternoon of May 8, 1935, by Mr. W. M. Johnson, who gives full details of this unusual occurance in the Round Table section of the present issue. (Reference No. 1.) Another is said to have been taken here about thirty years ago.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT

Phalacrocorax auritus auritus

The "nigger goose" of the duck hunters. It is a rare transient but one or two are to be found on Lake Andrew Jackson here rather regularly until the most extreme winter weather arrives. We first recorded this bird at Lake Andrew Jackson Mar. 29, 1929.

GREAT BLUE HERON ---------- *Ardea herodias herodias*

The Great Blue is to be found at Lake Andrew Jackson at all times of the year. It is likely that they leave if the weather gets too severe.

However, there was no time this winter that from 1 to 4 were not to be found at the lake every trip. They are not such regular visitors along rivers and in other sections where conditions are not so suitable.

AMERICAN EGRET—*Casmerodius albus egretta*

A specimen was taken at Hodges Lake, 15 miles east of Knoxville, in July, 1929 and mounted by Earl Henry; another was taken at the same place in July, 1932. A single bird was seen at Lake Andrew Jackson April 14, 1935 and on April 21 there were two. These are our first spring records. Most transient records of this species are made in the late summer.

LITTLE BLUE HERON—*Florida caerulea caerulea*

In the late summer the almost pure white immature Little Blue Herons arrive and immediately reports of "white cranes" begin to pour in. We have no records of mature birds here so it would seem that only the young of the year are given to this northward migration.

EASTERN GREEN HERON—*Butorides virescens virescens*

The "shite-poke" frequently seen along the streams and about ponds in the summer time. A specimen in Earl Henry's collection was taken in July, 1929. It is a common summer resident.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON

Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli

A rather rare transient and, having been observed in summer on the Tennessee River, is believed to nest there. It possibly is more common than supposed, but is seldom seen because of it's more or less nocturnal habits. A specimen in the collection here was taken Nov. 18, 1933. A spring date is April 14, 1935.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON

Nyctinassa violacea violacea

This species is probably a rare though regular transient visitor here. A recent record is of one seen by Walker and Foster at Lake Andrew Jackson on April 13, 1935. (2) An old record is that of April 24, 1885, observed by Fox in Roane Co. (18).

AMERICAN BITTERN—*Botaurus lentiginosus*

A rare transient, seldom seen because of its hiding ability. A specimen in Earl Henry's collection was taken in July, 1929, which might possibly indicate a breeding bird or at least a bird that nested not so far distant. One was reported at Lake Andrew Jackson April 13 and 21, '35. (See also note under Red-Breasted Merganser).

EASTERN LEAST BITTERN—*Ixobrychus exilis exilis*

A very rare summer resident. The writer's only record was one killed by frog hunters May 26, 1932 and mounted by Mr. Ogden. The bird was an adult in breeding plumage.

WOOD IBIS—*Mycteria americana*

A specimen mounted by Mr. Ogden was killed from a flock of 5 at Cumberland Gap, near the Kentucky line, June 13, 1932. It was an immature female and so far off its range that it must be termed accidental. (3)

WHISTLING SWAN—*Cygnus columbianus*

Possibly still a very rare migrant. At rare intervals we hear reports of "large white geese" which may be these birds. The last record we have of this species is that of two birds which were shot near Knoxville on Dec. 8, 1926, on the Little Tennessee River, south of this city. The culprits were deservedly prosecuted. (17).

CANADA GOOSE ---------- *Branta canadensis canadensis*

These noble birds never fail to excite even the most stolid farmer along the river bottoms. They are to be found at practically all times during the winter around Half Moon Island below Rockwood, Tennessee and are fairly common transients throughout the entire Tennessee valley. This last winter (1934-35) they seemed to be more common than usual.

COMMON MALLARD ---------- *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*

A fairly common transient and winter resident, but not nearly so common as a few years ago. Formerly the most common of the larger ducks, this season (1934-35) found them very uncommon, not over 25 percent as common as Black Ducks. They are usually rather late in arriving in the winter. A flock of 25 was seen at the head of Dickinson's Island, March 17, 1935.

RED-LEGGED BLACK DUCK ---------- *Anas rubripes rubripes*

COMMON BLACK DUCK ---------- *Anas rubripes tristis*

Apparently both forms of this species occur here, since birds with olive-green legs and at least one with bright red legs have been shot in hunting by myself and others. Black Ducks have for the past year or two replaced the mallard as the more common larger duck. They were the commonest of all ducks seen 1934-35, coming early and staying late. The hunters apparently confuse this bird with the hen mallard and commonly term it "black mallard."

GADWALL ---------- *Chaulelasmus streperus*

A very rare transient. We have only one record, that being a female at Lake Andrew Jackson Feb. 17, 1935.

BALDPATE ---------- *Mareca americanus*

A very rare transient. A female was killed on the Tennessee River above Kingston Nov. 9, 1934. 2 males and 2 females were seen at Lake Andrew Jackson Mar. 17, 1935, and 2 birds April 14, 1935.

AMERICAN PINTAIL ---------- *Dafila acuta tzitzihoa*

A very uncommon duck in East Tennessee. On February 17, 1935, the members of the E.T.O.S. were treated to a rare sight when a flock of 27 pintails passed over several times at Lake Andrew Jackson. A single drake had been seen there a few weeks before. We also have a record of 30 on April 30, 1932.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL ---------- *Nettion carolinense*

A very rare transient, much less common than 10 years ago. The only one reported here in recent years was a female collected in 1932 on the river near the Bird Preserve.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL ---------- *Querquedula discors*

A rare transient. Both the teals are rather scare now, with the Blue-winged the more common. April 23 a flock of 18 was seen at Lake Andrew Jackson. Also dates of Nov. 9, 1934, April 21, 1935.

SHOVELLER ---------- *Spatula clypeata*

A very rare transient. A pair of these strikingly colored ducks was recorded on Lake Andrew Jackson March 30, 1929. Five were seen on the Lake on April 13, 1935.

WOOD DUCK ---------- *Aix sponsa*

A very rare summer resident; East Tennessee's only breeding duck, breeding very rarely here. They are thriving under state and Federal protection and are among the commonest ducks early in the season. They were particularly common the fall of 1934. The latest record is Nov. 29 (1934). They move on very early. A spring date here is March 29.

REDHEAD ---------- *Nyroca americana*

A very rare transient. A mounted specimen in the Society's collection was taken near Looney's Island just below Knoxville a number of years ago.

RING-NECKED DUCK ---------- *Nyroca collaris*

A common transient. They were among the most common of the ducks 1934-35. Those killed early in the season, Nov. 8-10, were in Island March 17, 1935.
very poor condition. They are holding their own better than some other ducks. 6 were seen on ETOS field trip to Lake Andrew Jackson, Feb. 17, 1935 and several on April 13, 1935.

CANVASBACK ---------- *Nyroca valisineria*

A very rare transient. On Dec. 23, 1932 a flock of these ducks was seen by the writer just below Loudon on the Tennessee River. A mounted specimen is in the Society's collection.

LESSER SCAUP ---------- *Nyroca affinis*

A fairly common transient, but scarce this past hunting season (1934-35). A male was taken Nov. 8, 1934. A male was watched for some time on Daddy's Creek near Crab Orchard in the Cumberlands, Feb. 10, 1935. These ducks are not at all shy when single or in pairs, but are very shy in flocks; the ringnecks have similar habits. A flock of approximately 150 was on Lake Andrew Jackson Apirl 13, 1935.

AMERICAN GOLDENEYE --- *Glaucionetta clangula americana*

A very rare winter resident and an uncommon migrant. Feb. 10, 1934, 10 of these ducks were seen on the Tennessee river near the municipal water plant. This flock was present for several days and the ducks were watched at their feeding by numerous persons. One was recorded on the Tennessee River near Chattanooga by Mr. Ganier on March 26, 1933. (4).

BUFFLEHEAD ---------- *Charitonetta albeola*

This beautiful little duck is a very rare transient in East Tennessee. There are the heads of two males in the Society's collection which were taken on the Tennessee river several years ago. This duck was reported from Johnson City Nov. 12, 1932 and Nov. 12, 1933. (5)

OLD SQUAW ---------- *Clangula hyemalis*

This curious sea duck is a very rare winter visitor. Mr. Ogden has mounted two of them, the male having been taken in February, 1934, and the female having been one of three shot on the Tennessee River, Jan. 15, 1927.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER---------- *Melanitta deglandi*

We have only one record of this far northern sea duck, which commonly winters far to the north of our state and which seldom comes farther south than Long Island Sound. The bird was killed by the writer on the Tennessee river below Loudon, Dec. 23, 1932 and is now in Earl Henry's collection.

RUDDY DUCK---------- *Erismatura jamaicensis rubida*

A very rare transient, our only records being Oct. 19, 1930 and April 13, 1935 on Lake Andrew Jackson.

HOODED MERGANSER ---------- *Lophodytes cucullatus*

A rare transient. This duck is almost invariably found in pairs or a single bird. They were fairly common 1934-35 and were practically the only ducks on the river in late January at the close of the hunting season. A pair at Lake Andrew Jackson, Mar. 17, 1935.

AMERICAN MERGANSER.....*Mergus merganser americanas*

A rare transient. A flock of these large fish ducks was seen at Lake Andrew Jackson from Dec., 1934 until the latter part of March, 1935. The water had been compeltely open all winter and food is plentiful. Another record comes from H. P. Ijams, of one taken on the Tennessee River near Knoxville, Feb. 12, 1927.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER ..... *Mergus serrator*

A very rare transient. The taking by a duck hunter of several of these ducks in 1930 has been recorded. Mr. Tyler has a record of late March, 1932. The back and feet of one of these birds was found by Brockway Crouch in a Duck Hawk's nest, together with two left legs of American Bitterns. This nest was located near Alum Cave Cliff, on the South side of Mt. LeConte, at an altitude of 4500 feet. At this date, May 17, 1931, it held 3 young nearly ready to fly. The water birds were doubtless migrating north and probably came over the summit of the Great Smokies at Newfound Gap, which is at an elevation of 5200 feet above sea level. Identification was made by the U.S. Biological Survey.

KING RAIL.....*Rallus elegans elegans*

This rail is a rare summer resident and a rare transient. Some years ago a downy young bird was brought to Mr. Ijams which was identified as this species. A specimen taken at Fountain City in Sept., 1934, is in Mr. Ogden's collection. Earl Henry has seen several near Lynnhurst Cemetery in a marsh which has now been almost wholly drained by workers engaged in malarial control.

SORA RAIL ..... *Porzana carolina*

A fairly common transient, but seldom seen, because of its secretive habits. An occurance is reported at Johnson City, May 6, 1934. Earl Henry reports the occurance of this bird about 5 years ago. There is a record of one at Athens, Tenn. on April 24, 1902. (6).

AMERICAN COOT.....*Fulica americana americana*

The coot or "water chicken" of the duck hunters is a fairly common transient and a rare winter resident. Although nearly valueless as food, many of these birds are killed each winter by hunters who are unable to resist the easy target they present as they "patter" along the surface of the water taking flight. Were less than half as common as usual winter of 1934-35, but were common on Lake Andrew in the Spring.

SEMI-PALMATED PLOVER .....*Charadrius semipalmatus*

A very rare transient. A specimen was collected Sept. 18, 1932 on the bank of the Tennessee River opposite the municipal water plant at Knoxville, and is now the Society's collection.

KILLDEER ..... *Oxyechus vociferus vociferus*

This handsome bird of river, pond and pasture well merits the "vociferous" part of its name. It may commonly be seen or heard in almost all localities. A permanent resident.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER ..... *Squatarola Squatarola*

A very rare transient. An immature bird was killed on the municipal airport at Knoxville October 6, 1933 and in now in the Society's collection. (7).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK ..... *Philohela minor*

A rare transient and a rare breeder. Mr. John Bamberg has made some excellent pictures of nesting woodcock within the city limits of Knoxville, finding a nest with 4 eggs on April 27, 1931. (8), (9), (10).

WILSON'S SNIPE ..... *Capella delicta*

This marsh lover, better known as "Jack snipe" is a fairly common transient. We have recorded it in late January, but it is most com-

mon in March and April. Mr. Tyler recorded them as late as May 21 at Johnson City. (11).

UPLAND PLOVER ---------- *Bartramia longicauda*

A very rare East Tennessee migrant. We have no record of this bird near Knoxville, but Mr. Tyler, of Johnson City, has a date of March 26, 1933, as well as an occurance a few years before on which he does not have the exact date.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER ---------- *Actitis macularia*

Fairly common along our streams from spring until fall, most common in the spring. A nest with eggs was found at Johnson City. (9).

EASTERN SOLITARY SANDPIPER *Tringa solitaria solitaria*

A fairly comon transient; easily found along streams in spring and fall. This and the preceding are our only fairly common sandpipers.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS ---------- *Totanus melanoleucus*

A very rare transient. We have recorded it at rare intervals—on the banks of the Tennessee River, Sept. 18, 1933 and in a flooded pasture, April 22, 1928.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS ---------- *Totanus flavipes*

Not so rare as the Greater Yellowlegs. It was recorded on October 21, 1934 on a rock bar in the French Broad river near Paint Rock. Other dates are Aug. 2, 1928 and Sept. 18, 1933. On April 21, 1935 a flock of eight.

LEAST SANDPIPER ---------- *Pisobia minutilla*

A very rare transient. H. P. Ijams and Dr. E. B. Powers recorded this diminutive shore bird in a flooded pasture in Blount County, April 22, 1928. A report of May 14, 1933 from Johnson City is noted by Mr. Tyler.

SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPER ---------- *Ereunetes pusillus*

A very rare transient. One was recorded here Sept. 18, 1933, while a specimen in Earl Henry's collection was taken on the shore of a small pond in Sevier County, October 25, 1929.

HERRING GULL ---------- *Larus argentatus smithsonianus*

Occasionally, particularly during a time of high water, these large gulls visit us. A flock of 9 was seen on the Little Tennessee River, Nov. 8, 1934. One or two visited Knoxville several times during the winter. One, Feb. 16, 1935 was during very cold weather. (17).

RING-BILLED GULL ---------- *Larus delawarensis*

A very rare transient, our only definite record being a flock of 3 near Looney's Island below Knoxville, April 13, 1935. We possibly confuse these with the preceding species at times as we seldom see the gulls close at hand.

LAUGHING GULL ---------- *Larus atricilla*

This gull is an accidental visitor. The first authentic record for Tennessee was Sept. 18, 1933, when a specimen was taken from a small flock at the Island Home Park entrance on the Tennessee River. (12).

FORSTERS TERN ---------- *Sterna forsteri*

A very rare transient. However, this tern is usually recorded at some time every year. The last record was a flock of 11 on the Tennessee River from which a specimen was taken May 10, 1934. (13).

COMMON TERN ---------- *Sterna hirundo hirundo*

This tern is much less common than the preceding. A specimen was taken on the French Broad River about 20 miles above Knoxville, Nov, 1930, which proved to be this species. The bird is now in Earl Henry's collection.

EASTERN SOOTY TERN.....*Sterna fuscata fuscata*

While an accidental visitor in Tennessee, this tern has been recorded here twice, July 30, 1926 (17) and June 20, 1934 (14). In both cases the birds were picked up exhausted following severe coastal storms. The latter specimen is in the E.T.O.S. collection.

BLACK TERN.....*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*

A very rare transient, this bird has been recorded on the French Broad river in 1926 and at Lake Andrew Jackson, August 2, 1928.

There are certain birds on the Tennessee state list which undoubtedly occur here in East Tennessee and which should be included in a list of this nature although we have no definite date record of their occurance. This list may be said to contain, as a minimum, the following species:

Horned Grebe, Virginia Rail, Purple Gallinule, Florida Gallinule, Pectoral Sandpiper, Long-Billed Dowitcher, Bonaparte's Gull and Franklin's Gull.

LITERATURE CITED

Numbers (1) to (16) are from *The Migrant*, as follows: (1) vol. 6, p. 34; (2) Vol. 6, p. 33; (3) V. 4, p. 50; (4) V. 4, p. 5; (5) V. 4, p. 26; (6) V. 6, p. 3; (7) V. 3, p. 48; (8) V. 4, p. 22; (9) V. 5, p. 51; (10) V. 6, p. 14; (11) V. 4, p. 51; (12) V. 4, p. 8; (13) V. 5, p. 31; (14) V. 5, p. 46; (15) V. 5, p. 22; (16) V. 4, p.47; (17) *Wilson Bulletin* V. 41, p. 97; (18) *The Auk* V. 3, pp. 315-320. Numbers (15) and (16) are not cited in the text but contain pertinent information.

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, May, 1935

south, but at 8 a. m. May 16th was again hunting food at the traps. Each time he was recaptured, he was held several hours in a darkened cage before transporting the covered cage in an automobile. The trips were made in a roundabout way. One wonders what powerful urge it was that surmounted such difficulties and that prompted him to head directly "home" when released from the cage. It is with regret the disappearance of the old *Mockingbird* "B" is announced. He was the first of his species banded at the station and in the known 4 years of his residence, he always remained nearby so his disappearance doubtless indicates his death at the age of 5 years at least. His mate, also a permanent resident (at least 3 years old), is occupying a neighbor's garden now with her new mate, a young bird about a year old. A banded male *Orchard Oriole* that is raising a family in the garden is a return from some previous year, but so far, it has not been possible to trap him and read the band number. Only two adult male Orchard Orioles have been banded (1932) as here they enter traps only for water in times of drouth. The females and immatures are not so wary and several of them have been captured.

It is hoped other banders will send interesting items from Tennessee stations for publication in Brevities.

NASHVILLE, TENN., May 31, 1935.

THE ROUND TABLE

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: Our third record here for Upland Plover proved to be a charm for we had from two to eleven individuals present each day from March 27 to April 4, inclusive, at the old Bry's Airport, inside the city limits. This species was first seen this year on March 26 on Lake Forest golf course, a field which was frequented by flocks of Pipits last year and on which a pair or two of Prairie Horned Larks undoubtedly nest each spring. Looking for Larks I was surprised to flush the Plovers. The next morning I decided to look over Bry's Airport, a site which had always previously proved a disappointment as regards species other than Meadowlarks, Killdeers and (in season) Savannah Sparrows, and found two Upland Plovers. Afterwards we found them there each day, as many as eleven on April 2, and through April 4 when five were seen. On April 6 and 8 none were found. . . . I had never heard a Whip-poor-will here until the night of April 13 when we listened in Riverside Park to one calling close by. McCamey reported hearing five at Camp Currier, Miss., on April 17 together with two Chuck-wills-widows, while Whittemore also heard this species north of town on the same day. Earl Henry collected a specimen Sept. 24, 1932 for our only previous record. . . . Unseasonably cool weather evidently delayed our migrants as they arrived later than usual and in smaller numbers until April 18 on which date I recorded eleven species for the first time during the season. Subsequent migrants were more regular and the last of April and the first of May found our woods full of warblers and other species. A Blue-headed Vireo was recorded on April 23 and 24 and May 18 (McCamey). On April 23 I heard and saw a Nashville Warbler. On the 24th I observed for some time and at a few feet a bird which I believed to be an Alder Flycatcher. A Mourning Warbler was seen May 11 (McCamey, et al.) A Connecticut Warbler was reported April 27 (Alice Smith). . . . On the annual Spring Field Day, 126 species were noted, chiefly through the good work of Scouts led by Eagle Scouts Franklin McCamey, Fred Carney, and Henry Turner, with Jack Calhoun of Nashville. An early start and a disregard of all but the most terrific downpours enabled them and the most adventuresome of the main party to take advantage of the large number of birds present in the wooded bottomlands north of Lakeview. Warblers were especially abundant in spots. Six Veeries, a Philadelphia Vireo, twenty-three species of warblers, includ-

ing one Golden-winged Warbler (Earl Henry), were among the rare land birds seen. Six species of swallows, including the Cliff Swallow, were noted in numbers, skimming over the clover on the levee south of Lakeview. . . . Shorebirds were uncommon this spring. The Lakeview barrow pit was too grassy but suitable muddy shores on the more western string of pits were usually barren of results. On May 4, the day before the Field Day, C. M. Owens of Monticello, Ark., and I were fortunate enough to see 12 Wilson's Phalaropes (second Memphis record) feeding among about 25 Lesser Yellowlegs. A three-mile trek through the mud the next day and repeated visits at all pits on later dates failed to produce anything but occasionally a few Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers. On May 5, however, we did flush one Sora after another, totaling 15 for the whole string of pits. A few on May 8 were the last seen this spring. . . . Other waterbirds recorded at Lakeview were four Black-crowned Night Herons, six Shovelers and nine Blue-winged Teal on April 14 (also an Osprey); one Yellow-crowned Night Heron, an American Bittern, 35 Coots, 9 Shovelers, 30 more Teal on April 21; another Yellow-crowned on April 30; 15 Teal and an American Bittern on May 1; a Purple Gallinule was collected on May 4 by Earl Henry and another of this species was observed on May 16. . . . On April 30 the first Least Bittern was seen, several were noted at various pits on the Field Day and on May 26 a nest with four eggs was found. On May 30 it contained five eggs and a second nest containing three eggs was found. . . . At the Lakeview pit proper, which does not have areas of young willows as does the string of pits extending west and south along the levee, Pied-billed Grebes nested in 1932 and 1933 but not in 1934 when the pit was more shallow than usual and dried up early. This year the frequent rains have maintained a depth to three feet here and six nests were found. The first nest found contained six eggs on April 21 and eight on April 30 when two others with sets of seven were found. On May 1 a fourth nest, located within a few feet of the highway, was found with seven eggs. We could sit in a car and watch the parent on the nest as open conditions at this pit do not favor concealment of any great degree. This last was probably the first laid clutch as the eggs hatched May 8 and six baby Grebes were seen in the water nearby. The first nest mentioned contained 4 eggs on May 11 with four young nearby and on May 12 three eggs; one egg never hatched. The second and third sets also hatched but two later sets were not successful. No. 5, with 3 eggs on May 8 and a full clutch of 8 later, was found on May 30 to be empty with 4 eggs floating and one chick seen swimming nearby; No. 6, discovered with 2 eggs on May 26, was found abandoned on the 30th. Numerous snouts of turtles and snakes noted on the surface of the pond on subsequent days, probably explain these two failures. . . . A King Rail's nest containing 4 eggs April 21, 11 on April 30, 12 on May 1, still contained 12 eggs on May 18, but on the 19th four had evidently hatched. A heavy hailstorm and darkness stopped a search for the chicks. Six eggs remained on the 20th and 22nd—by this time the nest was evidently abandoned, possibly due to daily heavy rains during the last days of the incubation period. This period figures approximately 18 days, in line with the calculated 18 to 20 days for a set of nine eggs completed May 14, 1932 (See *Migrant*, Sept. 1932. About five other King Rails probably nested at these pits. . . . An Adult Bald Eagle was seen May 30 south of the Horn Lake levee (Lakeview). This is our first summer record this near to Memphis. . . . Starlings have nested at Memphis this season for the first time, so far as we know. Eagle Scout Frederick Fiedler causually mentioned a Starling nesting in an old woodpecker hole in a dead bare tree back of his home on April 28. I went there at once and saw my first young Starlings, clamoring for food as the adult returned to feed them. About ten days later, I saw seven immature and two adult birds in Forest Park and later they were reported at three other locations. . . .The Mississippi Kites of Vance Woods were first seen on May 12; three were noted instead of the two seen all last summer and later four were recorded there at one time.—BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis.

A PIPING PLOVER AT MEMPHIS.—A very shallow barrow pit, along Highway 61 at Horn Lake Creek and about half a mile north of the Mississippi line, was found to be frequented on May 4 by a few Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers and a Semipalmated Plover. On May 5 our Field Day, our motorcade was scheduled to pause here for a moment but the autos were soon emptied when a light colored plover was seen. Upon careful examination with binoculars and at close range, it was found to be a Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), a new species for Tennessee. The single breast band was complete on this individual but the pale whitish color, the short bill and the dark yellow legs, were features sufficient to distinguish it from similar shortbirds. This species should be recorded here again occasionally in migration but not often as it is a rare bird everywhere at the present time.—BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis.

NOTES FROM CORINTH, MISS.—On May 10th, my stenographer placed the following note on my desk: "Mr. Wright says there is a Black Bunion Warbler in his yard; wants you to come up at once." Since I have been looking for the elusive Blackburnian for ten years without success, naturally I hurried to Mr. Wright's home. The bird turned out to be a Magnolia Warbler, and of course, both of us were disappointed. But as luck would have it, that same day I had another call from friend Wright. That time it was a White-crowned Sparrow; neither of us had ever seen this handsome species although we had expected to find it some day as a rarity. He was feeding along a hedge in the yard, and later flew into a freshly spaded spot in the garden. On May 12 I found my first Blackburnian, twelve miles from Corinth, in Tennessee, on the Shiloh Road. One of my bird books says that the Blackburnian is the most gorgeous of all the warblers. I think this must be true. The rich flame that covers his throat, breast, and parts of head is found on no other bird that I know. Another interesting transient to call this year was the Tennessee Warbler. This bird came to my yard April 29th and remained for ten days, singing constantly during his stay. A dozen Dickcissels were found three miles west of Corinth, May 20th. They have nested in this same meadow for several years but there seem to be more this spring than usual. I think our commonest summer resident is the Orchard Oriole. They are found along the roadsides everywhere. Its larger cousin, the Baltimore, is rare; I have seen only one this season.—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

A WINTER HERRING GULL. During the first week in January, I was called and asked to identify "a strange and peculiar bird" which had been brought into town from the country. I went to see the bird at the first opportunity and prior to my arrival, found that others who had viewed it had named it an eagle, a hawk or even an albatross. As soon as I examined it I saw that it was an American Herring Gull, a bird which breeds on northern lakes and spends the winters coursing the rivers to the Gulf of Mexico. The big bird measured 24 inches from tip of beak to tip of tail and had a wing-spread of 58 inches. It had not yet donned adult plumage, being darker than the pearly gray color of old birds.

The lady who had it, said that it had been shot by a tenant on her farm who thought it was some sort of hawk. The farm was near the Cumberland River and the tenant had noticed it was feeding with his chickens at the time. It is always regrettable that our large rare birds should be shot so promiscuously but this one will serve some purpose for the plumage was in perfect condition and it has been mounted and preserved.—JESSIE B. ATKINS, Clarksville.

A GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER appeared on April 29th, on the wooded hillside at the rear of my home and is one of the very few records we have of this species near Nashville. The bird, a male in fine plumage, was collected and prepared for my collection.—JOHN CALHOUN, Nashville.

NESTING NOTES FROM MURFREESBORO: There is a small colony of Lark Sparrows on our farm a few miles east of town and here the first migrant was noted to have returned on April 15. I made a search for their nests and on May 8, found one with a single egg but they added 4 more before beginning to set. On May 12, another of their nests was found and this one held 5 eggs incubated about three days. . . . A nest of the Pileated Woodpecker was found on April 20, excavated 50 feet up in a dead oak; it contained 3 eggs, incubated about a week. . . . The Cooper's Hawk is our commonest hawk here in Rutherford County and I have found 7 nests this spring, as follows: April 21, 5 eggs; April 30, 3 eggs; May 4, 4 eggs; May 8, 3 eggs; May 19, 2 eggs, and during the first week in June, a nest with two nearly hatched eggs and another with young.—H. O. TODD, Murfreesboro.

KING RAILS AT MURFREESBORO: King Rails were found nesting here this spring for the first time. In a marshy field, at the city limits, where Redwing Blackbirds have nested for years, I made a careful search for the Rails this spring and found three nests. The first was found on April 26, but the eggs had been broken by Crows or animals of some sort. The second nest was found on May 2 and this one contained 9 eggs, incubated about 3 days at the time. Later, still another nest was found and judging by the appearance of the shells, the young had hatched successfully. On the nest were a number of snail shells which I suppose had been brought there by the Rails to be eaten. All nests were built in clumps of "bull rushes." Ample rainfall this spring may have been the reason for their remaining to nest.—H. O. TODD, Murfreesboro.

SPRING NOTES, 1935: Unprecedented rains all spring have kept the country green and well watered. The early migrants were earlier than usual due to an early period of warm weather. . . . Shorebirds, which were common last spring have been conspicuous by their great scarcity during the spring just past. I attribute these fluctuations to the drouth in the Northwest last May and the ample rainfall in that area during the present season. . . . On March 24, I found a nest of the Barred Owl, in the Cumberland River bottoms, containing 2 eggs. From their incubation I judge they were laid about March 2. A young owl of this species was found May 16, just two blocks from my house in town and it appeared to be only about a week out of the nest. It was kept as a pet until June 13, when it was banded and released on Stones River in Idlewild Wood. . . . A Duck Hawk was observed on April 21, on Caney Creek, near the falls, in Van Buren County, by Mayfield and the writer. We had suspected their presence here but this was our first positive record. The Golden Eagles are reported here still, by the natives but we saw none; the old nest however, has been recently added to. . . . The Sharp-shinned Hawks, which have nested near Craggie Hope for many years were late and it was not until June 2 that they had laid their 4 eggs. . . . The 12-year-old Cardinal at my home still prospers but lost his mate of years on April 7; a cat climbed to the nest at night and caught her. (Incidentally, I caught the cat the following night.) The male re-mated at once and the pair are now nesting about the yard.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville.

GREEN HERON NEST RECORDS FROM NEAR NASHVILLE.—As a common nesting bird on most of Davidson County's stream and pond-sides, the Eastern Green Heron (*Butorides virescens virescens*) is familiar to all observers. The writer finds personal notes on 12 nests of this species within the county, taken in 1930-1933 inclusive, which he would like to place on record for the use of other county observers. Extreme dates for full sets of egg are: earliest, bird brooding 4 eggs on April 14, 1933; latest, bird flushed from 3 eggs on June 1, 1930. In the last instance, the set may have been incomplete. The approximate average date for completed sets of eggs, as determined from these data is about May 3. The 1933 eggs were laid from

4 to 16 days earlier than this average, while 1930 nests ranged from average to 27 days late. Thus it seems that nesting time varies with several factors, probably temperature and the amount of protection the nest locality receives, but on these things the writer has no data. However, the 2 earlier 1933 nests, April 14 and April 21 respectively, were located in thick cedar trees, the only Green Heron nests of the writer's experience so located. One old nest found here in 1932 led to the 1933 search. Several pairs of crows nested in the same cedar grove, and the herons were forced to stand close guard over their own nests, which they seemed to do successfully.

Beside the cedar locations, 1 nest was found in a small plum tree, 1 in an American Elm, and the remaining 8 in small Mississippi Hackberries. This last tree seems to be the bird's favorite, in the writer's experience, probably because it so often is common along the small streams which the heron loves to frequent. All of these nests save 3 were very close to water, 4 being on branches overhanging the stream or pond, and 5 being within 25 feet of the water's edge. Of the remaining 3, the very late 1930 nest was located in a hackberry thicket in a long-dry gully, at least a quarter of a mile from any stream. The cedar grove nests were roughly 150 yards from water. The highest nest found was approximately 25 feet up; the lowest, 8 feet. The average for 12 nests was 17 feet. Seven nests contained 4 eggs, 3 contained 5 eggs, 1 contained 3 eggs, and the contents of 1 was never ascertained. The writer has noted in 2 instances evidence that leads him to suspect that an occasional pair of these birds may repair and use a nest two seasons in succession. Certainly the nests were in exactly the same location, and were unusually thick the second season. However, the localities were not visited in winter, nor were the nest torn apart to determine previous occupancy. The observations of other local bird students on this point would be interesting.—COMPTON CROOK, Cookeville.

RADNOR LAKE NOTES: My records of water birds on the Lake during the past spring, are as follows: The Loon that first appeared on Dec. 13th has been present continuously since that time. It is still here on June 16th, as this journal goes to press, a date decidedly late for this species. There were two Loons present at times during the winter. The last dates on which other waterfowl were seen on the Lake, are as follows: Coots on April 19th, 1 Ring-necked Duck on April 27th, 10 male and 18 female Lesser Scaups on April 27th, 1 Goldeneye on April 7th, 3 male and 1 female Bluewing Teal on April 8th, a pair of Pied-billed Grebes on April 27th, a male Shoveller on April 7th, 4 Horned Grebes on April 8th, a female Red-breasted Merganser on April 14th and a Double-crested Cormorant on April 19th and 27th. A flock of Black Terns were noted on the Lake during mid-May and again during the first week in June.—GEORGE B. WOODRING, Nashville.

THE BROWN THRASHER: I suppose if any bird lover were asked to name his favorite bird he would be sorely perplexed and find it a difficult question to answer. Like children, birds each have a peculiar personality. While I love all birds, even the much abused English Sparrow, after weighing the matter well, I believe my favorite is the Brown Thrasher, close cousin to the Mockingbird. He is the perfection of grace; his red-brown plumage above, creamy breast marked with arrow-heads of olive, long sweeping tail, clean-cut head and long straight bill, make a pleasing picture. Most glorious of all is his song; it is wonderful. While not so varied as that of the Mockingbird, his notes are clear-cut, distinct and liquid. The high notes seem to ascend to the very vault of heaven where they burst and float upon the air and those low caressing notes which he gives at nesting time, once heard can never be forgotten.

In modern-day slang, I should say the Brown Thrasher "blows in." For years I have kept a record and he has never failed to come in a storm or

strong wind, or on or near March 18th, about the time of the equinox. I remember one 18th day of March. I was sitting, talking with my husband, when all at once I heard a beautiful, clear note. "Oh, listen, that is my Thrasher," I said. "Do you really believe that is the same bird you fed almost at your feet last summer?" "I certainly do," I said, "would you believe it if he came to feed at my feet again?" "I think I should," he replied. I opened the French doors, walked out on the porch and scattered bread crumbs. Just then I espied him in a wild cherry tree near by. In about three minutes he swooped down, not three feet from where I stood and picked up the crumbs as calmly as any chicken—not the least bit afraid. "Well, I give up," said my husband, and from that day to this his interest in birds has increased.—NANCY LEE MORGAN, Columbia.

A WHITE PELICAN AT KNOXVILLE: On the afternoon of May 8th, about 5:30 P. M., I had just put the car in the garage and was going to the house, when my sister called to ask what the big bird was that was flying overhead. I realied that the mallard ducks about the yard were raising a great racket and had thought there must be a large hawk nearby. On looking up, however, I saw that it was a far larger bird than any hawk. It was about 150 feet overhead and all that I could see were its underparts. Its head, being drawn back on its shoulders, was not visible, but a very large bill pointed outward, almost as large as my hand and forearm and of a yellowish color. The body and most of the wings were white but the primaries were black. At first I thought that it was a Great Blue Heron but at once realized that there were no outstretched legs. It was flying very heavily and just before it passed out of sight over the trees, it set its wings and began to sail. It had been crossing a ridge and there was considerable wind that it had to overcome. A few minutes later, Mrs. Johnson and the children drove in from town and told of having seen a very large white bird pass over the hill a half mile away. They commented on the fact that it was flying as if its wings could scarcely hold it up. We decided that the big bird could have been none other than a White Pelican and reference to pictures in our bird books confirmed our belief. After supper, we loaded up the car and set out up the Holston River, in the direction the bird had gone, but were unable to trace it.

A notice was put in the paper and on May 10, Mr. Tom Kesterman, air pilot for the T.V.A., called Mr. Ijams to say that late in the afternoon on May 8th, he and a group were at the Airport on Dickenson's Island and someone looking up, called that an airplane was coming in. In a moment they realied that it was a large bird and at first thought it was a big "crane." It finally came so close that they could see its bill and pouch and the webbed feet. Some time, over thirty years ago, there was a mounted bird in the lobby of the old Palace Hotel, said to have been shot near Knoxville. Before 1895 the hotel was turned over to the Y. M. C. A. and I do not know what became of the bird. We trust that our rare visitor will be able to "run the gauntlet" and safely reach its nesting grounds in the far northwest.—WILLIAM N. JOHNSON, Knoxville.

NOTES FROM THE KNOXVILLE REGION. The earlier part of the past spring migration was characterized by the erratic movement on the part of a number of birds; the latter part of the season, however, regulated itself to a great extent.

At the end of the first week of April, 11 species of warblers were present—including the Yellow Warbler on the 2nd, the Blackbunian on the 4th, and the Prothonotary on the 6th. Those dates, listed above, are 2 or 3 weeks earlier than average. This early movement was broken off quite abruptly by almost incessant cold rains which followed.

On the morning of April 13th 3 Black-crowned Night Herons and three Ring-billed Gulls were observed along the Tennessee River west of Knoxville.

This represents the first definite record of the Ring-billed Gull in the immediate vicinity of Knoxville, although it more than likely occurs regularly. On the afternoon of the 13th a single Yellow-crowned Night Heron was flushed from the border of a small woodland pool near Andrew Jackson Lake. It flew into a dead tree bordering another pond and allowed observation at an extremely close range. It was also observed the following day in the same location. On Lake Andrew Jackson, 3 Ruddy Ducks and 5 Shovellers were observed along with four or five other species of ducks. On the following day at the lake an American Bittern was seen and an American Egret was present. The Egret stayed at the lake until April 21st when it was joined by a second bird. Neither of them was seen after that time. Two Baldpates and an Osprey represent the only other interesting observations of that date. A pair of Prairie Horned Larks which we had previously located, were again found present on April 14th. The male was in full song and as this date was past the usual time of their first nesting, it is probable that they had a nest in the vicinity.—WILLIAM WALKER and GEORGE FOSTER, Knoxville.

LONG-EARED OWLS IN BLOUNT COUNTY: In the last *Migrant*, mention was made of a specimen of this apparently rare bird having been brought to me on Dec. 22 last. On March 6, 1935, another was brought in and given to me to be mounted. It had been caught in Blount County, 12 miles south of Knoxville, near Wildwood Springs by Mr. W. A. Gaut, by means of a pole trap. These birds are not known to nest in Tennessee but this capture at so late a date, would indicate that they may breed in the vicinity. North of the Ohio River, the average date of nesting is said to be the latter part of March.—S. A. OGDEN, Knoxville.

The new Commission of five who will look after the State Department of Fish and Game, was appointed May 15, by Gov. McAllister. They are: L. C. Jacobs, chairman, Nashville manufacturer; J. W. Hoskins, Knoxville, manufacturer; Dr. W. H. Cheney, Chattanooga, physician; Franklin W. Latta, Dyersburg, lawyer, and Malcomb C. Hill, lawyer, of Sparta. Members of the T. O. S. should make themselves known to these gentlemen and enlist their aid in the conservation of bird life.

SPRING FIELD DAYS were held by our Nashville, Knoxville and Memphis chapters as scheduled in our last issue. The Nashville outing was held May 12, at Craggie Hope, 25 miles west of Nashville, with an attendance of about fifty. A total of 106 species were listed during the day, this including an early morning list made at Radnor Lake. The Knoxville group, on May 5, assembled at the Island Home Bird Sanctuary on the Tennessee River and in that general vicinity, listed just a few short of an even hundred species. The Memphis group, in spite of rainy weather, listed on May 5, the unprecedented number of 126 species. Good territory for water birds and varied terrain materially assisted. Highlights of the list are mentioned in Mr. Coffey's notes in the Round Table section.

STATE OFFICERS were elected for the year beginning July 1st, at the annual Spring Field Day at Nashville on May 12, as follows: George R. Mayfield, Nashville, President; Ben B. Coffey, Memphis, Vice-President for West Tennessee; Bruce P. Tyler, Johnson City, Vice-President for East Tennessee; Albert F. Ganier, Nashville, Editor-Treasurer; Vernon Sharp, Jr., Nashville, Curator; John Bamberg, Knoxville, Secretary, and Miss Georgie Reed, Nashville, Assistant Secretary.

THE MIGRANT

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"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough, it is not necessary to go beyond it."

EDITORIALS

This issue might be termed a "water-bird number" of *The Migrant* and as such it is timely because of the fact that these birds are now facing a crisis and due attention should be drawn to them. Years of drouth in their breeding grounds in the far Northwest have brought most of the ducks to the danger line while in the South the drainage operations of malarial control forces are being executed in a ruthless campaign to wipe out all marshes and shallow lakes in an effort to control mosquitoes. Much of this work is ill-advised for most breeding grounds of marsh birds can be made mosquito proof by other means than drainage. Officers of the T. O. S. have been working to combat this needless campaign of destruction. The present program reminds one of the old story of the unresourceful fellow who killed the dog in order to destroy the fleas.

East Tennessee is not generally thought of as being on the migratory routes of water birds but Mr. Trent's illuminating article in this issue corrects that impression and shows that the mountains which surround it are by no means a complete barrer to the waterfowl in their travels. Incidentally, Mr. Trent, who is a printer, has generously printed and presented to *The Migrant*, the eight additional pages carrying his article.

On April 13 the Associated Press broadcast a news-story to the effect that an eagle near Lynchburg had attacked and attempted to carry off an eight-year-old boy and that his brother had rushed to the rescue and killed the bird with a stick. This highly colored yarn was investigated by the Editor who interviewed the boys and found that they had discovered the eagle on the ground, chased it into a gully and there, while trying to capture it, the small boy was clawed and bitten. It was a Golden Eagle.

The three Golden Eagles sent from Nashville to the Great Smokies National Park were duly released there by Supt. Eakin. Naturalist-Technician Willis King reports that at least one of them was seen regularly afterwards and that it is probable that the eagles seen at various places in the park may mean that all three have succeeding in establishing themselves. The park gives a splendid outlet for eagles captured in Middle Tennessee during the winter, when they are accused of stealing lambs and small pigs.

Tennessee's Department of Fish and Game is to be ruled henceforward by a non-political Commission of five men. It is hoped and expected that the deputies will now hold their jobs by reason of efficiency rather than, as in the past, as a political reward for assisting in the election of local legislators. The Commission has elected Mr. Damon Headden, present incumbent, as Director of Conservation. Those of us who know Mr. Headden are pleased over the outlook for he has proved himself to be an open-minded man and one who is really interested in the conservation of all forms of wild life.

W. H. SEDBERRY

TAXIDERMIST
and
FURRIER

Thompson Station, Tennessee
(25 miles south of Nashville)

I specialize in the lifelike and artistic mounting of birds.

Fish, Mammals, Heads and Horns also mounted.

For my work I refer you to the Tennessee State Museum, where I have mounted some of the specimens shown there and to the Editor of The Migrant.

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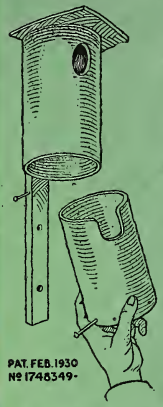

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THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

Published by
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THE MIGRANT

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HISTORY OF THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

By A. F. Ganier, G. R. Mayfield, Dixon Merritt and A. C. Webb

Twenty years ago, October 7, 1915, five Nashville "bird-men" gathered one evening at Faucon's French Restaurant and launched the T. O. S. It all transpired somewhat as follows, if our respective memories have not failed us.

Merritt, then Editor of *The Morning Tennessean*, had been running a series of brief sketches on birds, entitled "Tales of a Tenter", and after a few of these had appeared, Ganier, a life-long bird student, called on him and made his acquaintance. It developed during the conversation that each knew of others who were interested. There was Mayfield of Vanderbilt University whose interest had begun at Atlanta, Webb who had written a little book on birds used as a supplemental reader in the schools, and Judge H. Y. Hughes of the Court of Appeals who had formed an excellent library of bird books. Another visit followed the first and it was then agreed that all should know each other, that a meeting should be held and perhaps a club organized for mutual pleasure and benefit. So, the meeting was arranged and, with dinner over and personal experiences exchanged, the matter of forming an organization was broached and at once decided upon. A committee was appointed to prepare a constitution and by-laws while the others agreed to look up any available literature on Tennessee birds. The group adjourned to meet together two weeks later, at the Tulane Hotel parlors, for formal organization. At that meeting Webb was elected president, Hughes was made vice-president. Ganier curator and Merritt secretary-treasurer. A sixth member was added in the person of Dr. George M. Curtis of the Vanderbilt School of Medicine.

Those who had volunteered to find books or lists of Tennessee birds found that there was practically nothing available and that the State offered practically a virgin field for ornithologists. It was therefore apparent that the first task of the Society, and a most interesting one, would be to form a comprehensive list of the birds of Tennessee. At the meetings which followed, a hypothetical list which had been prepared was checked off, from the literature and from past observations of the members, while the balance were left to be discovered during the course of future field work. In this way, the list of the birds of Tennessee grew from 218 in 1915 to more than 300 at the present time.

The group, or as many of them as possible, met together for field work each Saturday afternoon. Some favorite trips were, into the waste lands beyond the Belmont car line, the Webb farm, or from Glendale, through the Overton Hills to Radnor Lake. Meetings were usually held at the downtown office of the president during the winter but later it became a pleasant custom for the Society to convene at the homes of the members who were prepared to receive them. So intent were the five members on their work of finding the birds that little thought was given to finding new members and it was not until the following year that any new members were added. During

that year, Messrs. Dan R. Gray, Harry S. Vaughn, Jesse M. Shaver of our present membership were elected. At the beginning there was a common understanding that membership was to be reserved for the sterner sex, but when some of the members began to bring or invite their interested lady friends to meetings, there was finally a partial capitulation and they were admitted as Associate Members, which classification did not carry with it the privilege of voting. Needless to say they "proved their metal" and were soon advanced to full membership. Among our present members those who came in during 1916 were Mrs. Wm. P. Morgan of Columbia and Miss Lillie Haslock who became Mrs. Mayfield in 1920. On our present roster, those who joined at an early date were R. A. Wilson 1917, H. C. Monk 1919, Mrs. A. Loveman 1920, Mrs. Sandford Duncan 1921, Dr. J. H. Phillips 1921, J. A. Robins 1921, Vernon Sharp 1921 and Miss Alma Hollinger 1922. Dr. R. M. Strong, one of those who founded the Wilson Ornithological Club in 1888, was stationed at Nashville from 1916 to 1919 and was one of our valued members during that time.

To realize its ambitious program of listing the birds of Tennessee, it became evident at an early date that expeditions must be carried out to the various corners of the State where variations might be expected. The first of these was to Reelfoot Lake where during three days, at Thanksgiving, 1915, Ganier, Mayfield, Webb and a hunter friend, J. D. Blankenship, listed 59 species of birds and made up a study collection of 35 bird skins. An account of this trip appeared in *The Wilson Bulletin* for March, 1916. This was followed each year thereafter by one or more of such exploratory trips until at the present time, most of the 95 counties in the State have been searched more or less frequently by one or more of our members.

The initial list, prepared during the first autumn was steadily added to and by 1917 sufficient data had been accumulated to justify getting out a printed list for the use of the public. The Curator was delegated the task and with the financial assistance of the State Department of Fish and Game, "A Preliminary List of the Birds of Tennessee" came off the press in 1917. In the 32-page pamphlet, there were listed 270 species and sub-species of birds, their status being shown separately for each West, Middle and East Tennessee. In January, 1933, the same author completely rewrote the 1917 list, adding to it all new information available and it appeared as Tennessee Avifauna No. 1, "A Distributional List of the Birds of Tennessee". In this 64-page pamphlet the State list was brought up to 302 forms, the status of each being presented for each of the three regions above mentioned. As evidence of continued activity it may here be mentioned that nearly a dozen new species have been added since the 1933 list appeared.

By 1930 it became evident that, if the work of the Society was to be made state-wide in its fullest sense, there must be an official organ to bind the membership together. *The Migrant* thereupon made its appearance, George B. Woodring being chosen for editor with the assistance of Miss Vera Kearby and an advisory committee. Due to lack of funds the first issues were mimeographed and when in 1931, it was found possible to print it, the numbers consisted of only eight pages and cover. After five volumes had been completed Mr. Woodring passed the work over to the present editor who had been assisting in the capacity of Associate Editor. *The Migrant* is published without the aid of any subsidies whatever, being entirely sustained by the small fees paid by members and subscribers. At the present time our little journal represents the Society's most tangible accomplishment, its contents being made possible by the hearty co-operation of its many contributors.

A project which the Society is looking forward to is the preparation of a comprehensive book on the birds of the State. It expects to sponsor nothing

less than a thoroughly accurate, fully illustrated volume such as has been brought out in Massachusetts, Minnesota, Florida and New Mexico. Sufficient data concerning the rarer species of birds has not as yet been gathered and financial backing has not been available. Meanwhile, the Society is confident that such a work can be brought out in the not far distant future and in the interval its members are building up a literature in the columns of *The Migrant* and other journals. A number of our members are proficient photographers and are making photographic collections of wild birds, their nests and eggs. Arrangements are being made for the reproduction of some of their work.

The keeping of written notes by members has always been stressed. In 1916, small (3x5) printed card lists of birds were made available to members and these have proved very popular for listing species seen during a day or trip. These are filed by month and year and may be filed along with plain cards on which are written more complete observations. Some members also use notebooks. In the bird-banding method of study. the keeping of full written records is quite necessary. The interesting banding contributions that have been made by Mrs. Laskey, for example, would not have been possible without proper records.

The value of adequate reference books on the subject of ornithology has been stressed and as a result, most of our members are building up working libraries on the subject. There are but few worth while books on birds which are not available somewhere in Tennessee. Among other rarities in the State are six sets of Audubon's "Birds of America". The Editor's library of ornithological books and periodicals is perhaps the most complete in the South at the present time.

In the fall of 1923. bird students at Knoxville, under the leadership of Harry P. Ijams. formed a local chapter of the T. O. S. and have met regularly since that time for evening meetings or field excursions. In 1929, shortly after Ben B. Coffey took up his residence in Memphis, he organized a chapter in that city and much worth while work has been done there as a result. The parent chapter at Nashville has met regularly every two weeks since the beginning, except during the summer months. Spring and Fall Field Days are held each year near Nashville and are usually attended by members from a distance. Local chapters also have their Spring and Fall Field Days. One of the most valuable concerted efforts of the Society is the annual Christmas Census. During recent years this mid-winter bird list has been made up of observations taken at as many as ten points throughout the State, with a maximum of 90 species listed. These are published each year in the March *Migrant.*

There are no museums of consequence in Tennessee and for this reason particularly, a number of our members have formed their own study collections. At the beginning, the then Curator began to gather specimens of all species and sub-species indigenous to the State and this task is nearing completion. The birds are kept in cabinets in the form of study skins and number more than 600 specimens. He has also the eggs, in sets, of practically all of the birds which nest in Tennessee. These collections are frequently referred to by members as well as by ornithologists from a distance and have proved to be very valuable. Other collections of birds, in mounted form, are owned by the Knoxville Chapter and by Dr. Earl Henry of Knoxville. A few of our members have formed beautiful study collections of eggs and among these are Dr. H. S. Vaughn of Nashville, Robt. B. Lyle of Johnson City, A. F. Ganier, H. C. Monk and Vernon Sharp of Nashville, Henry O. Todd of Murfreesboro, and one or two others. The first two collections mentioned are not restricted to Tennessee, but contain eggs from all over North America. These collec-

tions have served to sustain the interest of their makers, have led them to engage in highly intensive field work and have been the source of great interest to non-collectors. Their formation has therefore been justified, particularly when it is considered that the few thousand specimens thus acquired and preserved for scientific study comprise only an infinitesimal portion of the bird and egg production of one season. It is also of interest to note that those who are collectors are also among the leaders in movements for general bird protection and conservation.

The T. O. S. has been ever mindful of its duty as an agency for education and conservation. It has worked hand in hand with the succession of Wardens of the State Department of Fish and Game, with the U. S. Biological Survey, with the National Association of Audubon Societies and other organizations. It has helped to shape the gradual evolution of our game laws and to secure their respect. Through its efforts, the study of birds is becoming popularized as a pleasant avocation for adults. In another article in this issue, a more detailed account is given of these activities. Some years ago the T. O. S. affiliated itself with The Wilson Ornithological Club, a national organization, and more recently, with the Tennessee Academy of Science. It acted as host for The Wilson Club on the occasion of the annual meetings of that organization at Nashville in 1924 and 1927 and it actively assisted in arranging for the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Nashville in 1927.

From the beginning, the Society has made a conscientious effort to cultivate and sustain the interest of members in all sections of the State who were isolated from the main groups. The circulation of its little journal among all members has done much toward bringing them closer together. The organization looks forward to a varied program of endeavors yet to be accomplished. A large percentage of its members retain their interest year in and year out and since ornithology—the study of birds—holds an inexhaustible supply of new facts to be learned, the Society and its members have much to look forward to in the years to come.

A T. O. S. ANNUAL FALL FIELD DAY

By JOHN CRAIG

To the uninitiated, perhaps, the T . O. S. Annual Fall Field Day means nothing. To the ornithologist, however, it has a world of significance.

This article is being written by one of the formerly uninitiated. In fact, suffering from lack of knowledge whatsoever concerning the "doings" of the Tennessee Ornithological Society on their Annual Field Day, I am thoroughly equipped to display about all the ignorance there is about birds. However, I would like to tell something about the proceedings of these highly specialized ornithologists who have kept this organization wide awake and going in Tennessee for eighteen years. There is, necessarily, something intensely interesting about a group that could convert a whole state, for the most part indifferent to bird lore, to a community of bird lovers.

It concerns me alone just how I managed to get my invitation to "tag along." Plain, good old-fashioned luck, I'd call it. The Field Day was held on October 22. A party of about sixty met at the intersection of Sixteenth and Broad Streets at 8:00 a.m. College professors, bankers, engineers, ladies, Boy Scouts and so on. I claim the distinction of being the only layman in the party. Despite the glowering clouds overhead, it was one of the happiest groups I have ever had the good fortune to join.

A blue-print itinerary was handed to me. While good, wholesome humor shouted at you from the sheet, no detail of the trip had been omitted. Birds a-twitter were pictured all over the sheet. They were merrily shouting the route we were to take. "Cross this ford, follow this detour, keep out of the State Penitentiary, turn off here." A sketch of a quacking wild duck was labeled in his exciting flight, "Rain or shine we go like ducks."

But with all the cheerful bustle I continued to wonder just how a field day could be held with birds. Now, if it had been a track meet or a dog fight I'd have been right there. But birds?

Then we bustled into our cars and whizzed merrily down Highway 100 following the indicated flight of the duck. But what was this? The leading car suddenly stopped beside a miniature lake. Looking ahead we saw its eager occupants rolling out and unsheathing their field glasses. Evidently the field day was under way. As the succeeding cars were halted the happy buzz of satisfaction began anew as new arrivals peered eagerly through their binoculars. Why not? There were three Wilson's Snipe on the lake.

Now to you or to me this discovery, perhaps, would have meant nothing in our young lives. In lots of cases out of ten we'd never have seen the snipe. But to these trained in the study of bird life, this discovery of three Wilson's Snipe appeared to be a worthwhile occurrence.

Right here permit me to digress and draw a conclusion by one who has hunted most of his life. Not with camera and field glasses, mind you, but with a gun. As a hunter the presence of those snipe would have stirred me with a lust to kill. At once I would have attempted pitting my wits against that of the birds in order to get within shooting distance. If successful I would have been rewarded by an opportunity to match my skill as a marksman against the birds' adroitness at evasion.

The resulting possibilities, from the standpoint of the hunter, would have been exciting enough, not to say exhilarating. There would have been breathless moments of stealthy stalking. Then would have come the whipping of wings, the zigzag flight and the deft training of the gun. Verily the possibilities are intriguing enough, from the standpoint of the hunter.

But I am grateful to have been permitted to experience the thrill enjoyed by the ornithologist who hunts with his field glasses, his camera and most important of all, his knowledge of his quarry. I am trying to give my reaction at hunting for the first time with no weapon with which to destroy. Suddenly I found myself eagerly peering through field glasses at those timid birds. And peculiarly enough, the desire to kill never entered my mind. On the other hand, I began to ask questions about the Wilson Snipe, keenly anxious to know more about him. Where did he winter? Where did he nest? On what did he feed? There were questions and questions. Was it an inspiration received from these bird lovers that caused me later to read with the keenest satisfaction and pleasure everything I could find on the Wilson Snipe? Verily, looking through field glasses has given me a new slant on game birds in general and the Wilson Snipe in particular.

I no longer see him only with the eyes of a sportsman. He presents something else other than a game bird rising in terror from bog or lake and frantically fighting for his life. I see something other than the crumpling of wings and the lifeless little bundle of feathers that had once sheltered a game, proud spirit.

But I started out to try to give some idea of a bird field day and not to comment at such length on the benefits and satisfaction I received.

I might explain that this stop was not according to schedule. It happened on account of the discovery of the Snipe. At the new bridge over the

Harpeth River we stopped in accordance with the directions of the blue print. Systematically the cars were lined up to be well out of traffic. In businesslike manner the leader distributed cards on which was printed at the top, "Field List of Tennessee Birds." Under this heading was the place for date, temperature, locality, wind, weather, start, return and place for the name of the observer. Then followed a list of the birds we might expect to find. Just for example: Bluebird, bobwhite, bobolink, redwing blackbird, indigo bunting, catbird, cardinal and so on. I think there was listed something in the neighborhood of one hundred and thirty that we might expect to find.

Field glasses again leaped from their cases. At once they were sweeping the skies, trees, hedges, fence rows, cornfields, everywhere. I felt utterly at a loss. Why should we stop there anyway? There wasn't a bird within forty miles, according to my way of thinking. While I was foolishly fingering my glasses and wondering what it was all about, members of the party were listing the names of the birds that flirted, flitted, fed and frollicked all about us. The exclamations about me were something like this: "Over there is a flock of Starlings. Look, two Carolina Wrens. Here are five Myrtle Warblers. There are some Carolina Chickadees and a Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher." So it went on and on. Where I hadn't seen a bird, these bird lovers were picking them out of the air, from weed patches, from trees, from everywhere. And what was most surprising, interesting and satisfactory to me was, they were getting a measure of joy and satisfaction out of this pastime that few sportsmen ever experienced by slaughtering.

Right here at this same stop an incident occurred that put me to further shame. Did you know that we had a bird named for Tennessee? I didn't and when his presence was discovered from the top of the bridge there was an exclamation of pleasure from the entire group. Everyone gravitated to this spot where the birds were feeding in a cluster of tall rag-weeds underneath the bridge. At first I couldn't see anything, but on close inspection the weed tops were found to be alive with them. Shy little creatures they were, gliding gracefully up and down the weed stalks and feeding contentedly from brown pods laden with luscious seed.

At once there was a transformation of this apparently uninteresting spot. The tops of those obviously prosaic, brown weeds became a gorgeous banquet table resplendent with color, exuberant with gaiety, and overflowing with music and laughter and song. Verily a party of Tennessee Warblers were at feast. Not as trenchermen, mind you, but as fine Tennesseans in happy accord and grateful appreciation.

Yea, we could linger long at this spot. For thousands of motorists that rush past it each week it holds nothing. To that group of ornithologists it held tremendous treasures. Treasures that might be had at no cost at all by everyone just for the reaching out and taking. But we must journey on and explore some of the other activities of the T. O. S. on its Annual Fall Field Day.

The final rendezvous was, in accordance with the blue print, to be at the South Harpeth School down in a bend of the South Harpeth River. To reach this location the South Harpeth must be forded. This sounds ominous if it is not explained to those who have never been there that the South Harpeth, in the true sense of the word, is only a beautiful, clear, rippling little stream that flows tranquilly along in wobbly fashion except, that is, for some of its big moments. At such times, under lash of weeping clouds it can indulge in violent temper.

To the driver of the leading car the ford appeared harmless. The stream, however, was swollen and the car was drowned out in mid-stream. Now for

loaded and the occupants were crowding merrily along the bank. With no ado about something, shoes and socks were discarded and trousers rolled. In some instances no respect at all was shown wearing apparel. By the time two naked feet protruded from the stalled car sturdy shoulders were being applied and shortly the car was on its way. I had good reason to recall with satisfaction the motto under the flying duck on the blue print.

At the school house the party was divided into groups and the field day began in earnest. I chose a group headed by a leader whom, I felt pretty sure, would answer a volley of assinine questions before he murdered me. My selection was wisely made.

Have you ever gone out, deliberately, to locate birds? A bird lover must, necessarily, know a great many things. That is, he must know a great many things about a great many things before he begins acquiring a real knowledge of birds and bird life. For instance our guide knew all about the trees and vegetation that furnished food, shelter and protection for the various kinds of birds. In hunting them the true ornithologist is versed in preferred habitats and in food bearing plants, vegetation and all the various sources from which birds obtain food.

My questions were the ones that would naturally be asked by the untutored, everyday individual who loves birds. Here are some of the questions which I asked. Apply these questions to any of the numerous kinds we saw that day. Is it migratory? Where does it nest? How is its nest built? How many eggs does it lay? What are its favorite foods? What are its worst enemies? Is it classed with the song birds? Is it protected by the state law? And so on. May I remark right here, to the everlasting credit of that group of bird lovers, that none of them at any time lost patience with me. It was as if they had something sacred and beautiful that they earnestly desired to share with a blind man.

If you are not already versed in the pursuit of bird knowledge perhaps it may be interesting to know just how these ornithologists approached their subjects for inspection. My method at first proved so crude and unsuccessful that I soon began watching our leader. It appeared to me from observing him that he did not approach by stealth. His movements were casual. Might I say, kindly? It was as if he were taking the timid little fluttery bit of glorious life into a well deserved confidence. His approach was slow but bold. There was no movement of menace in his advance. Gentleness, sympathy and understanding might be said to have been incorporated in his every action. There was nothing unexpected or sudden in sound or movement. To sum up his methods of approach I would say that his whole attitude was that of utter unobtrusiveness. As a result of this friendly advance, it may be fancy, but I really believe that the birds enjoyed those moments of human nearness. Suffice it to say that they almost invariably continued right along undisturbed in their birdly occupation of feast and frolic and song.

After hours of this fascinating pastime we finally returned to the school house where lunch was to have been prepared in the open. Unfortunately, the clouds that had threatened all day suddenly swooped into vigorous action. The tripod for the coffee-pot had to be folded, the watery barbecue trenches abandoned and the eagerly anticipated festivities transferred to the shelter of a nearby summer resort.

Inside our adopted host made us welcome in a manner that put to shame the weepy proceedings outside that would have dampened the ardor of most anyone but the true ornithologist. Everybody was hungry and happy. Soon, through the efforts of the lunch committee, the tantalizing odor of fragrant coffee was circulating around causing much excitement in the way of sniffs the spirit of the true ornithologist. In a moment the ensuing cars were un-

and comment. The cheerful bustle that heralds the near advent of good food was to be heard "round and about."

Later followed the lively drawing up of chairs, and lightsome chatter of cheerful people who find the great outdoors immensely to their liking. Nor did this timely diversion interfere with the business of summing up what had been accomplished during the morning.

After happy sighs of contentment could be heard generally throughout the big dining room, the leader called the meeting to order. Score cards were produced and a census was taken. Each member of the party consulted his or her card as the names on the Tennessee Bird List were called, each giving the number of each kind of bird seen as listed on the individual card. At the close a total of each kind of bird seen was recorded in order that each member would have a composite list of the day's finds. For illustration I give results of a few kinds of birds seen as they appear alphabetically on my card. Bluebird 15, Bobwhite 26, Cardinal common, Carolina Chickadee fairly common, Cowbird flock of about 150, Crow fairly common, Brown Creeper 2. And so it went throughout the entire list.

In the meantime the rain had begun to pour in torrents. To my surprise quite a number of the party donned raincoats and ventured forth. Filled with amused curiosity I took a stand on the front porch. I am too incredulous, anyway. To my way of thinking they couldn't find a bird with all the glasses in christendom.

Almost at once a pair of field glasses were being trained at the top of a nearby tree. Other glasses came up. Following the direction I was surprised to see a gay colored bird on one of the topmost branches. Another one joined him. Then another and another. I wondered if they were feeding while the wind roared through those swaying branches sweeping a downpour mercilessly across those feathered silhouettes. And then through that gray, weeping day came to me the hilarious notes of a gay song.

Yes, I have often wondered what an ordinary layman could get from a Bird Field Day. There are lots of things I did not understand. From a scientific standpoint I might as well have been looking through a stained glass window. But I am satisfied.

Through the kindness of these bird lovers I had been swept for a day out upon an irresistible tide of joyous forgetfulness. Through them I had been enabled to commune with the beautiful spirits of another, finer world. With them I had wandered through songland where tragedy and heartbreaks are accepted as a part of the Divine Plan.

NASHVILLE, TENN. From *The Open Trails* of December, 1933.

A COLLECTION OF BIRDS FROM COCKE COUNTY, TENN.

BY WILLIAM M. WALKER, JR.

Three new birds for the Tennessee list as well as other rare species, were the result of a careful examination of the collction of Mr. N. F. Stokeley at Del Rio, Tenn. The Knoxville Chapter of the T. O. S. journeyed to his home on July 21, 1935, and view the several glass cases of mounted specimens.

Del Rio is located on the French Broad River, eight miles west of the North Carolina line. Here the stream cuts a deep east-west valley through the mountains and forms the north boundary of the Great Smokies range. No doubt the river has been instrumental in developing a regular migration route through the mountains and this is borne out by the number and variety of water birds in the collection. The specimens were mostly taken by Mr. Stokeley or by his neighbors and all are from Cocke County. They were mounted

by his mother, a most talented woman, and make a very attractive display. Notations where given are from the recollection of Mr. Stokeley, a register of the collection having been lost. Mr. A. F. Ganier visited the collection on Sept. 1, verified our identifications and has furnished notes and the several measurements given below.

Common Loon, 2. An adult and a small immature.
Pied-billed Grebe, 2.
Great Blue Heron, 3.
American Egret, 1.
Little Blue Heron, 1. In white plumage.
Little Green Heron, 3.
Black-crowned Night Heron, 2. Taken recently.
American Bittern, 3.
Eastern Least Bittern, 2. From cat-tails at small pond.
Canada Goose, 1.
Blue Goose (*chen caerulescens*), 1. A mature specimen, taken in the fall 6 or 8 years ago. This is a first record for East Tennessee.
Shoveller Duck, 1.
Wood Duck, 2. Said to breed along the river.
Pintail Duck, 1.
Greater Scaup (*Nyroca marila*), 1. A new record for Tennessee. The color patch on side of neck is distinctly greenish, the flanks are unbarred and the following measurements complete the evidence that the bird is not the Lesser Scaup. Length in inches 19.7, wing 8.50, tail 1.70, and bill 1.75. This bird was taken about 30 years ago and though Mr. Stokeley has shot many ducks, he says he never saw another of these.
American Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, and several other of the more common varieties of ducks.
Hawks. He has specimens of Broad-winged, Red-shouldered, Red-tailed. Cooper's, Marsh, Sharp-shinned and Sparrow Hawks. He has no knowledge of the Duck Hawk.
Golden Eagle, 1. Shot in summer.
Osprey, 2. Taken on the river.
Ruffed Grouse, 3. Said to be fairly common.
King Rail, 2. He also has several of their eggs.
Virginia Rail, 1. New record for East Tennessee.
Sora Rail, 1.
Black Rail (*Creciscus jamaicencis stoddardi*), 1. A new record for Tennessee. Mr. Stokeley secured this specimen between June 10 and 20th, 1915, while cutting wheat. It would only fly a short distance and getting close to it, he knocked it down with a hay fork. The locality was a mile south of Del Rio in the river valley. At the date taken, it would seem that this bird must have been on its nesting grounds. It has been found breeding in North Carolina, near Raleigh, in wet meadows. This is the smallest of the rails, being not much larger than an English Sparrow. The specimen is nicely mounted.
Wild Turkey, 1, also some of their eggs. Still present, some shot three years ago.
American Coot, 1.
Wilson Snipe, 1.
American Woodcock, 1. Three sets of four eggs each were found early in 1935 of which a set was collected.
Western Willet, 1. (*Catophrophorus semipalmatus inornatus.*) Shot by Mr. Stokeley in the late summer of 1934, after it had alighted in the road a hundred feet from his house. Plumage very light. Measure-

ments in inches: wing 8.3, tail 2.90, bill 2.30. A new bird for the Tennessee list.

Amer. Herring Gull, 2.

Ring-billed Gull, 1.

Laughing Gull, 1 (with head black). Taken on the river about twenty years ago. Second State record.

Bonaparte's Gull, 4. One spring adult, one fall adult and two fall immatures. The last three were taken about six years ago from a flock of thirty or forty on the river.

Forster's (or Common) Tern, 1. An immature bird.

Black Tern, 1, in mottled fall plumage.

Owls: Barn, Great-horned, Barred and Screech.

Among other land birds of interest were Cliff Swallows, Bobolink, Pileated Woodpecker and Purple Grackle including eggs of the last mentioned. There are many others of the common varieties.

No specimen of the Raven was among the birds and Mr. Stokeley says that none have been seen in recent years.

Nearly all of the local mammals were represented by nicely mounted specimens, including Little Striped Skunk 3 (all taken together and said to be rare), Weasle 2, Mink, Wild Cat, Black Bear, etc., etc.

KNOXVILLE, TENN., September, 1935.

EARLY REMINISCENCES

BY DIXON MERRITT

All history has its roots in the prehistoric.

The beginnings of the Tennessee Ornithological Society are far back of that historic meeting of five men at Faucon's in October, 1915—as far back, at least, as the first bird work done, and the inspiration for it, by A. C. Webb, H. Y. Hughes, Albert Ganier, and George Mayfield.

Webb's experiences went fartherest back, but all of the others went, probably, farther than my own. They ought to be told in this journal. All of us can tell them—all except Hughes who, wing-weary and worn, flew out into the night on his long migration years ago.

So far as I am concerned, and, by the accident of being in position to speak through a newspaper rather than with my own voice, I became the atom about which the nucleus formed, and my interest in birds had come about through an earlier interest in developing the history of Audubon in Kentucky.

For seven years at the beginning of the century, I was city editor of the *Daily Messenger* at Owensboro, Ky. It was along that reach of the Ohio River—along it and out from it for great distances—that Audubon did his pioneer work on the birds of America. At Henderson, a few miles below, he lived and operated a grist mill, a sort of general store, a crude steamboat; there that he lost his patrimonial fortune and, leaving his family to such mercies as were, went tramping as a sign painter. But the popular accounts of his life laid emphasis on New Orleans, New York, Norristown, Pa., all the places where he did comparatively little, and barely if at all mentioned Henderson.

It was no devotion to birds—which I had known only from Arm & Hammer Brand soda cards in my childhood—but my interest in the vindication of history that started me to work in an effort to supply a deficiency in the biographical data of Audubon.

I encountered in Henderson, Ingram Crockett, a bank cashier, the most sympathetic bird student that I have ever known, and an intimate of the Audubon haunts. I commend to you his "A Yearbook of Kentucky Woods and Fields"—though perhaps you cannot find it now. When I had finished extracting the Audubon data from Crockett, I had absorbed from him a love for and a smattering knowledge of birds that made me the desultory writer of bird bits in the Nashville papers.

Those bits brought to my office, first, Herman Yates Hughes, of the bench of the Court of Appeals, a lonesome bird student. They brought next, Albert F. Ganier, desirous of meeting a kindred spirit, and George R. Mayfield, equally lonesome and equally a student of birds. Ganier it seems had previously hunted up A. C. Webb who had done pioneer bird work of an educational character in the Nashville schools. And so it came about that the T. O. S. was set afoot, as told in our history on another page. You know the rest—except the prehistoric portion that only Webb, Ganier and Mayfield know.

Our delight in the companionship of one another—so long had they been hermit hunters and I a sort of Solitary Sandpiper—was such that, for some time, we did little on week-ends but talk and tramp together. Not until months afterward did we do much about bringing in new members.

There comes to me with particular zest of memory, a frosty evening in front of a log fire at Mr. Webb's house in East Nashville; a night spent in a cabin somewhere in Cheatham County and a dawn-time hunt among the crags along the Cumberland; a twilight under the black brow of the Overton Knobs when Ganier collected the first Winter Wren that I ever saw; an afternoon of spring snow and blow when Mayfield and I ran against each other around the bend of a blackberry jungle beyond Centennial Park, hunting for—and finding—the Brown Thrasher on his first arrival.

Webb and Hughes—but *The Migrant* is a very small magazine and there will be no stopping if I get properly going on these memories. The rest of you have done as much as we in making the organization. But you have never known, and never are to know, the joy of companionship in the work we had in those first days.

NASHVILLE, TENN., September, 1935.

AUGUST NOTES FROM NORTH LAKE

BY FRANKLIN M'CAMEY

North Lake is a shallow body of water, a half mile long and nearly as wide, lying in the southwestern corner of Tennessee, about two miles north of Lakeview, Miss. Its shallow waters make an excellent feeding ground for Herons and Egrets, and a much smaller lake just southeast of it, having filled with soft mud to within a few inches of the water-level, is a place where several hundred shorebirds may be found during their migration season.

As the writer, with George Foster of Knoxville, approached this smaller lake early on the morning of Aug. 1, we heard the guttural croaking of feeding birds, and soon saw the glistening white plumage of 70 Little Blue Herons (20 in adult plumage) and 80 American Egrets, feeding in the soft mud. They made a beautiful picture against the light green willow background as their plumage reflected pinkish hues from the rising sun and forty sandpipers, with almost as many each of Killdeer and Least Terns, lent noise and motion to the scene. The Sandpipers were: Least 18, Semipalmated 4, Spotted 6, Solitary 12, and Pectoral 10. A Bald Eagle soaring over the south side of the

lake, a few Great Blue Herons and three Lesser Yellowlegs were interesting sights on North Lake. Our list was swelled by 2 Wood Ducks, 2 King Rails, 4 Least Bitterns and 60 Starlings (unusual at this time of year), seen at the barrowpits in Mississippi, just below the state line.

On August 6 a valuable record was secured at the pit in Mississippi, a half mile south of Tennessee. A Dowitcher, evidently the Eastern because of a relatively short bill, was feeding with some Pectoral Sandpipers at the pit. Foster had seen the bird twice at St. Louis, and there was no doubt as to the identification here, since the bird was carefully studied at a short distance with our binoculars.

The next day was a profitable one at North Lake. The first thing Foster saw was a Western Sandpiper (*Ereunetes maurii*), new for the state list; careful study of the flock of 170 Sandpipers revealed at least three more of these birds, easily identified at the close range by their long bills. (Since these Sandpipers closely resemble the Semipalmated, two of them were collected on August 11 by Mr. A. F. Ganier who verified our observations.) Other birds on the small lake were: Sandpipers—Spotted 3, Solitary 5, Pectoral 30, Least 70, Semipalmated 50, Stilt 2 (seen at same place Sept. 9, 1934); Lesser Yellowlegs 3, Little Blue Heron 35, Egret 40, and Least Tern 50 (the last three species on North Lake). A late afternoon trip to the first barrowpit in Mississippi (a half mile from Tennessee) netted a beautiful Wilson Phalarope in fall plumage. It was easily identified by the white rump, grayish back, snowy white breast, long neck, thin short bill, brownish legs and yellowish feet, and the peculiar manner of feeding by carefully stalking its prey, unlike the nervous actions of the other shore birds.

On August 11, our party of four spent a morning in unsuccessful search for shorebirds at their usual haunts (then mostly dried up). We undertook the long walk through the woods to the small lake, and there found the birds, though in slightly diminished numbers. Efforts at collecting did not frighten them, and all members of the party (Mr. and Mrs. Ben Coffey, Jr., Mr. Ganier, and the writer) had good chances to observe the 6 Westerns, 2 Stilts and others, including Sandpipers (Semipalmated 60, Least 50, Spotted 6, Solitary 8, Pectoral 25), Semipalmated Plover 1, Lesser Yellowlegs 10, Little Blue Heron 40, Least Tern 30, and of course, King Rails and Bitterns at the Mississippi pits. The Great Horned Owl, the sight of which has been a regular climax to every Mud Lake trip the past six months, was seen perched in the same general location again. On this trip, a flock of over 2,000 Purple Martins in a cypress tree at the west end of the Harahan Viaduct at 8:00 A. M. was an interesting sight, and good pictures were secured.

On Sept. 2, Bert Powell and the writer made another trip to North Lake, finding things pretty much the same. There were fewer Least Sandpipers, about 15 Westerns, and the usual numbers of Spotted, Solitary, Pectoral and Semipalmated. The high spot of the trip was the White Ibis (see ~~the foregoing item~~ p. 68), with a beautiful adult Bald Eagle, observed as he made two attempts to catch a fish in North Lake, running a close second. Other water birds noted on this lake were 18 Great Blue Herons, 40 Egrets, 110 Little Blue Herons (12 adults), 1 Double-crested Cormorant, 80 Least Terns, and 2 Black Terns. At the Mississippi pits, 9 Blue-winged Teal, 1 female Baldpate, and numbers of Barn Swallows brought the day's list to 80 species.

The last trip on Sept. 8 showed that the height of the season was past. The usual birds were found in greatly reduced numbers, except the Egret, of which there were 80 on North Lake and 100 on Mud Lake, which had finally begun to get low enough to be attractive to the wading birds. Stilt and Western Sandpipers were seen again (2 of each).

Other interesting notes from Memphis include the following: Observed by Foster and the writer, Wilson Snipe at Lakeview on July 28, and the last Painted Bunting in Memphis on that date. At Riverside Park on July 21, we saw a Prairie Warbler, which must have been an early transient, as we have no summer records, and 2 juvenal Black-throated Green Warblers (early). On Aug. 4, a hike up the south side of Hopefield (Mound City) Chute, which, though west of the river is in Tennessee, netted a few Terns, Egrets, and Herons, the most important being 4 juvenal Yellow-crowned Night Herons flying across the river from the east side. Of hawks, 1 Cooper's, 4 Red-shouldered, and 1 Broad-winged were also seen. A short trip to Ensley Bottoms, by the same two on Aug. 5, brought us a female Blue Grosbeak, the first record for this species here in four years.

Mississippi Kites are either becoming more common here, or move about more in August, for during the first ten days of that month they were seen in six scattered localities on successive days, in numbers ranging from one to six in view at one time.

MEMPHIS, TENN., September, 1935.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF FOUNDER MEMBERS

As mentioned in the first article in this issue, the organization of the T. O. S. was effected October 7, 1915, by five men who therefore became its founders. With the exception of Judge Hughes, who died in 1921, these members are still living and retain their early interest in ornithology. They not only conceived but carried thru to execution their plans for an organization to develop the study of bird life. The following biographical sketches are set forth as a matter of record:

A(lonzo) C. Webb (T. O. S. 10-7-'15, Pres. 1915-19, V.-Pres. Mid. Tenn. 1920). Artist and teacher, Nashville, Tenn. Born 1859 at Chariton, Iowa. For many years Supervisor of Writing and Drawing in the city schools. Professor Webb's interest in birds began in the late nineties at which time he contributed a series of articles to the Nashville Banner on the common birds of this section. These articles were directed chiefly to school children and appeared at a time when bird protection was in its infancy. In 1898 they were brought together in book form under the title "Some Birds and Their Ways" and were illustrated by the author. The volume was used as a supplemental reader in the schools and was succeeded in 1917 by a similar volume entitled "Our Bird Book." Mr. Webb during his supervisory rounds of the schools began to be called on to make talks on birds and so interestingly did he present the subject that he gave them to all the schools with regularity. To illustrate these talks, he mounted a number of birds which were collected and brought to him by friends. He relates that he "literally wore these birds out" in taking them around to use in his lectures. In but few communities in the land have the birds had so effective and ardent a champion as Nashville has enjoyed in A. C. Webb. His election as our first President was in appreciation of his earlier work.—G.

Dixon (Lanier) Merritt (T. O. S. 10-7-1915, Sec'y 1915) was born at Baird's Mills in Wilson County, Tenn., on July 9, 1879. He is a writer by profession and has had a varied and successful career in journalism, chiefly in Nashville, New York and Washington. Finally, realizing that there was no place like home, he returned to Wilson County, became Editor of the Lebanon Democrat, rebuilt the paternal cedar-log home and hung out a

"WELCOME" sign for T. O. S. members. When stationed at Owensboro, Ky., Mr. Merritt became interested in Audubon and there, in 1909, prepared an extended paper on "Audubon in Kentucky." He states, however, that his greatest claim to ornithological prominence emanates from his authorship of a certain famous limerick, the first line of which reads, "A wondrous bird is the Pelican," etc, etc. But his fellow bird-men know that his qualifications are based upon an ardent love and appreciation of birds and all nature and trust that his gifted pen may chronicle an increasing number of his observations upon bird life. He is a member and officer of many local and national organizations but values none more highly than the T. O. S.—G.

George Radford Mayfield (T. O. S. 10-7-15, Sec'y 1916-17, Pres. 1920-21, 1934-35), Professor of German, Vanderbilt University, Nashville. Born at Lawrenceville, Ga., March 21, 1877. A.B., Emory University, '00; A.M., Vanderbilt, '04; Ph.D., '15. Belongs to Am. Ornith. Union, Wilson Ornith. Club, A. A. A. of S., Tenn. Acad. of Science (Editor '26-29, etc. Dr. Mayfield is one of our most consistent field workers and has done more work in recording the movements of migratory birds than any other member. His observations afield have been permanently recorded on our standard listing cards and these, to the number of about 2,000, he has one file for reference. His is an entertaining speaker and is called upon very frequently to make bird talks before various organizations. We credit him with being our best authority upon bird notes and songs and with being able to identify more than 35 species of warblers by their mere "chirp." ("Where birds are concerned, Dr. Mayfield has a keen eye and a trained ear, and can accurately name a bird which is apparently not there so far as the untrained observer is concerned. This faculty has been highly developed by spending his leisure hours, for many years, with the birds in the open country."—R. A. WILSON.)

Herman Yates Hughes (T. O. S. 10-7-'15, V.-Pres. 1915-1918) was born in Lee County, Virginia, Jan. 8, 1863, and died at his home at Tazewell, Tenn., Feb. 25, 1921, aged 52 years. Judge Hughes received his early education at Tazewell College and later taught school. Not having the means to attend college he read law at home and was later admitted to the bar. His popularity at home was attested by the fact that he was elected mayor of Tazewell three times and later county judge, which office he held six years. In 1910 he was elected to the court of civil appeals which office he held until 1918. Overwork, due to a highly conscientious regard for his duties and long hours of application brought about a breakdown from which he never recovered. It was while the court of appeals was meeting at Nashville in 1915 that Judge Hughes became a founder of the Society and his fellow members found in him a most enjoyable and congenial companion. He had accumulated an excellent library of bird books, among which was a set of Audubon's Birds of America. At one of our early meetings he presented each of his fellow workers with a copy of Chapman's **Color Key to North American Birds.**—G.

Albert F(ranklin) Ganier (T. O. S. 10-7-1915, Pres. '22-'23, 30, Curator 1915-'21, '24-'30, Editor 1935), born Sept. 9, 1883, Vicksburg, Miss. B.S.C.E. Purdue Univ., '08. Civil engineer, N. C. & St. L. Ry., Nashville, Tenn. Amer. Ornith. Union (member), Wilson Ornith. Club (Sec'y 1918-1922, Pres. 1924-1926), A. A. A. of S., Tenn. Acad. Science (Pres. 1926), Bird-lore's Advisory Council 1917. (It was the writer's pleasure to nominate Mr. Ganier for curator at our beginning because he had already begun to gather his comprehensive collections of the birds and eggs of Tennessee species and to keep systematic notes. He had begun his bird study at the age of ten and by taking the various bird magazines had become acquainted with the

work of ornithologists all over the country. He has had an active part in practically all phases of the Society's work. During all of the twenty years of its existence he has regularly made field trips of an exploratory nature into all sections of the State and has written nearly a hundred papers as the result of his studies. One of these, "A Distributional List of Birds of Tennessee," 1933, is the only comprehensive publication on the birds of the state. By correspondence and visits to our members he has assisted materially in building up the Society on a state-wide basis. Mr. Ganier's work in behalf of The Migrant is rendering an invaluable service to our organization and for the advancement of ornithological knowledge.—DIXON MERRITT.)

WORK OF THE T. O. S. IN PUBLICITY AND EDUCATION

BY GEORGE R. MAYFIELD

From the beginning, it has been realized that properly conducted publicity work would be a most important factor in achieving the conservation and educational program of the Society.

One of our founders, Mr. Dixon Merritt, was already running "a column" of bird stories in *The Morning Tennessean* at the time of our first meeting. Mr. R. A. Wilson, another columnist and one of our early members was conducting his widely read "Fin, Fur and Feathers" department in *The Sunday Nashville Banner*. This column, which is still running, has accorded us generous space and has contributed much to the standing and influence of the Society. The co-operation of these two writers opened the columns of the two Nashville newspapers to the articles which were later prepared by other members.

Soon after the founding of the organization, full page articles with illustrations by Mr. A. C. Webb appeared in *The Tennessean* and in *The Banner*. From 1916 on, the local press has been generous with space in connection with the Society and its activities. At Knoxville, Mr. H. P. Ijams has published full page features and many news articles have appeared in the newspapers published there during the past twelve years. Mr. Ben B. Coffey, Jr., has had many articles in the two Memphis papers, since he transferred there in 1928. Mr. Robert Spark Walker is a member of the staff of *The Chattanooga Times* and has written many bird features for this paper. Dr. Jessie Atkins publishes a weekly column in *The Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle* entitled "Wings and Stings and Other Things". Bird students have found co-operation not only with the metropolitan dailies but also with the weekly newspapers. Thousands of articles have been read throughout the State in these less widely-circulated sheets. And finally, scientific articles have appeared in *The Auk*, the *Wilson Bulletin*, in *Bird-Lore*, in the *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science* and in other scientific magazines.

For the past six years the Society itself has published a quarterly journal of bird study called *The Migrant*. This little magazine, first edited by Mr. George Woodring, and now edited by Mr. A. F. Ganier, is recognized as probably the best state bird journal in the country. It has been the means of placing on permanent record not only the occurrence of rare birds but of the studies of the habits of the more usual kinds. It serves as a tie to bind our more than two hundred members together. The Society has also inaugurated another series of publications to take care of articles too long for its quarterly. This series is entitled *Tennessee Avifauna* and two numbers have been issued to date.

The campaign for the selection of a State Bird gave an opportunity for wide publicity in connection with the work of the Society. The metropolitan dailies carried a picture of and a short article concerning the fifteen bird "candidates" selected as most characteristic of bird life in Tennessee. Naturally, many of the weeklies carried news notes from time to time and some of them published the pictures of the birds as well as the articles. The interest in the campaign grew to such an extent that 75,000 votes were cast and thousands of letters came in from every section of the State as a result of the publicity and consequent interest in the choice of a State Bird.

Passing from the publicity to the educational work of the Society, we find equally marked success in achieving the ends for which this organization was formed. For twenty years there has been a bi-weekly meeting of the Society, to which its regular members have come and also hundreds of people interested in birds, some of whom later became members. From these meetings in Nashville the interest passed on to Knoxville, to Memphis, and to other cities of the State. Young people were welcomed and during this time many active bird students have been developed and some of our members are now engaged in the teaching of ornithology, zoology and kindred subjects. The annual Field Days in the fall and in the spring have brought together a large number of bird lovers and out of these groups have come many promoters of bird conservation. The members of our Society have visited in schools, in boys' clubs, in girls' clubs, and in garden clubs, and have succeeded in arousing a personal interest in bird life on the part of members of these clubs.

Many of the officers of the Society have had extensive correspondence with bird students not only throughout Tennessee, but throughout the South and this correspondence has brought a number of Corresponding Members to the Society and caused many people to become active workers in the cause of conservation. From the teachers of schools and presidents of science groups, as well as other organizations, have come requests for information and literature and personal correspondence has contributed much to the present interest in the State of Tennessee for all forms of wild life. The Kentucky Ornithological Society and the Georgia Naturalist Club have looked on the Tennessee Ornithological Society as the parent organization.

From time to time talks have been made over radio by members of the

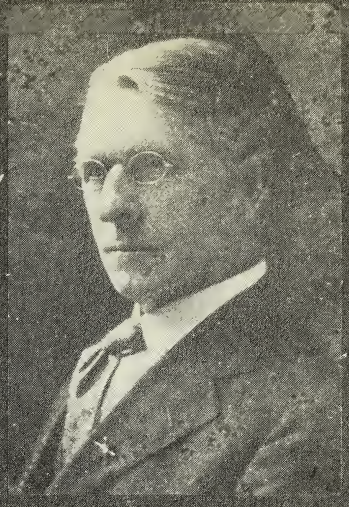
KEY TO THE PICTURES

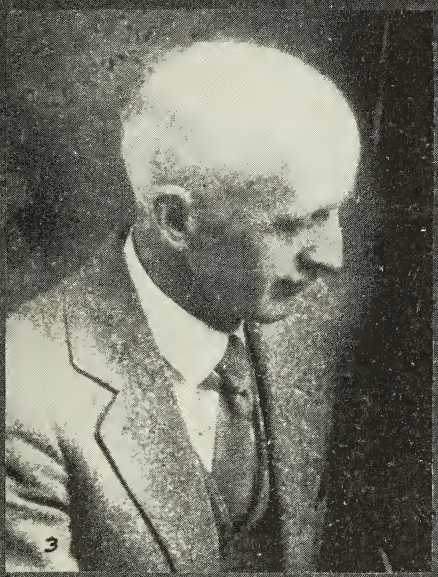
Number 1—A. C. Webb, 2—A. F. Ganier, 3—Dixon Merritt, 4—G. R. Mayfield, 5—H. Y. Hughes, 6—Four Founders (Merritt, Ganier, Webb and Mayfield), 7—H. S. Vaughn and George Woodring (who appear to be swapping buzzard eggs), 8—Frank McCamey (we don't know him in this role), 9—Mrs. F. C. Laskey banding a Cardinal, 10—J. M. Shaver, 11—Mrs. W. P. Morgan, 12—H. C. Monk, 13—R. B. Lyle and B. P. Tyler have surely found something here, 14—H. P. Ijams, 15—R. A. Wilson, 16—John Bamberg, 17—"Jack" Calhoun, 18—H. O. Todd, at Goose Pond, 19—These were too timid to wade (Craggie Hope), 20—Too many cooks, etc. (Coffey, Mayfield, Hicks, Vaughn and Shaver), 21—Banding Chimney Swifts at Memphis (Mrs. Barefield, Mrs. Coffey, Miss Smith, Erie Henrich, Frank McCamey and Fred Carney), 22—Wayland Hayes, 23—Mr. and Mrs. Ben Coffey in the "jungles", 24—Sycamore (among "those present" are Misses Kearby and Ross, Messrs. Sharp, Shaver, McNish, etc.), 25—"Jim" Trent, Jr. (caught not looking for water birds), 26—A lot of ex-presidents (Ijams, Ganier, Coffey and Hayes), 27—Mrs. Coffey at the Reelfoot "Crane-town", 28—Knoxville Chapter 1934 Field Day at Island Home, 29—Spring Field Day of 1934 at Nashville, and 30—Spring Field Day of 1935 at Nashville.

Four Founders

Webb

Gonier

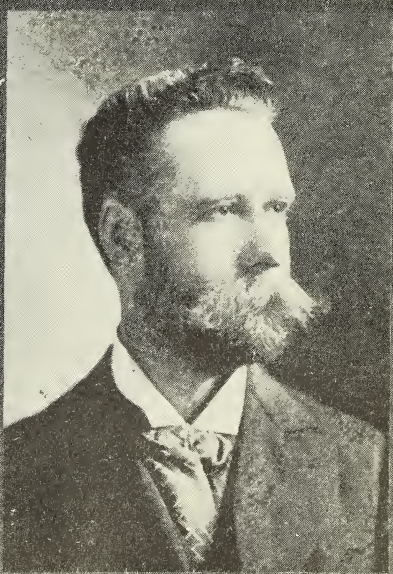




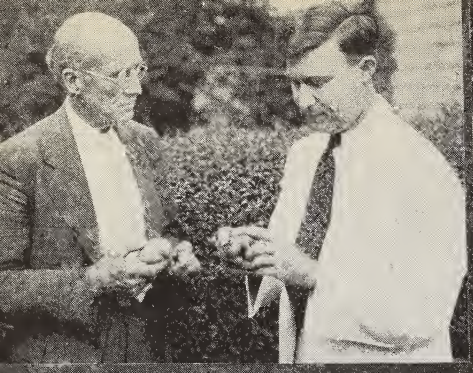
Merritt

Mayfield

Hughes



Four Founders



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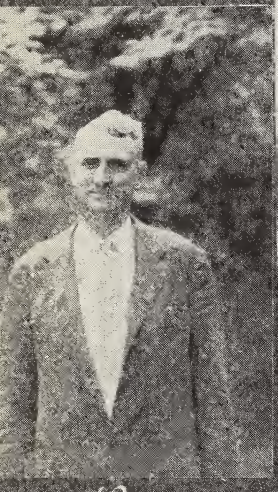

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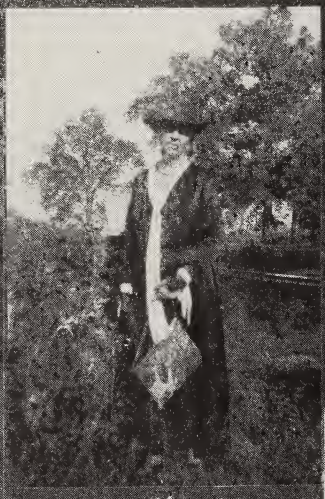

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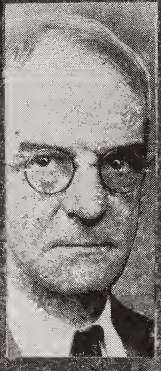

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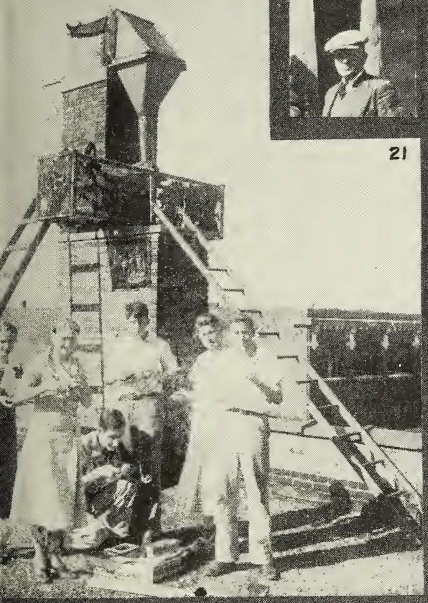

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Society on bird life. During the severe freezes of winter both WSM and WLAC, as well as other stations, have sent out appeals to all persons to have pity on the birds and to provide them with food. In the spring time and summer talks have been made urging people to protect the birds from cats, from snakes, from crows and other enemies, and to encourage people to increase the number of birds around their homes.

Another phase of our educational work has been through the Department of Game and Fish. During all of these years the Society has kept in close touch with the State Game Warden and encouraged this department to protect not only the game birds, but song birds as well. Not much co-operation was attained until the late Mr. George Calhoun became head of this department. His co-operation was greatly appreciated. The present Game Warden, Mr. Damon Headden, is a former educator and has worked with the Society in all of its plans. He has taken one of our members, Mr. John Caldwell, and placed him at the head of educational work in the State. This is one of the greatest achievements in the interest of the organization and promises to bring about results of which we have long dreamed, but had little expectation of seeing realized. If the plans that have been developed can be carried out, our Society will feel amply rewarded for its many years of disappointment and seemingly fruitless labor. The most comforting thought of all is to think back on the situation in Tennessee with regard to bird life in 1915 as contrasted with the present attitude. When the officers and members of the Society do this, they take courage and gather fresh inspiration to go on with their plans for the future.*

NASHVILLE, TENN., September, 1935.

**Editor's Note*: Dr. Mayfield, as author of the above article, has modestly refrained from mentioning his own part in our educational and publicity work. It should be made a matter of record, however, that he, more than any other member, has been most assiduous and effective in these activities. He has prepared more newspaper copy than any of us, he was chairman of the committee which conducted the State Bird campaign in 1933, and at present he is actively assisting the State Department of Fish and Game in developing its educational campaign designed to reach the younger generation.—A. F. G.

BIRD BANDING BREVITIES NO. 6

BY MRS. F. C. LASKEY

Since June 1st, almost 600 birds have been banded and several species have been added to my list, making a grand total of 5,628 individuals of 88 species. One of the most unexpected captures was a **King Rail** on August 11th at a small pond on the outskirts of North Nashville. It was the first bird taken in a shore bird trap, made and set by Jack Calhoun. King Rails apparently are rather difficult to trap for, according to the Biological Survey reports, only 15 have been banded in the past few years in North America. Other shore birds trapped included **Green Herons, Solitary Sandpipers, Spotted Sandpipers, and Killdeer,** all of which were taken at a shallow pond in Belle Meade, a few yards from a much traveled highway. A rather significant capture was that of my first **Cowbird,** a lone female, that fed at the traps during the snow of late January although this species has been rarely seen at my home banding station. However, this summer 4 immature Cowbirds have been trapped here, at least one of them having been reared by a Warbling

Vireo that was much agitated and distressed while the young Cowbird was entrapped. Life history studies of banded Mockingbirds are proving more interesting each year, and this past season more time has been spent afield, in addition to studying the color banded individuals near my home. About 50 young birds were banded on their nesting grounds in this area with the objective of obtaining data, through recovery records, on the dispersal of these young birds that disappear as soon as they are able to feed themselves. Since late August transient immature Mockingbirds are being trapped at my home; pokeberries are the lure. A Bronzed Grackle banded June 17, 1932, was again trapped July 24, 1935, when she brought her fledglings to the garden and carried bread from the drop trap to them. Her plumage though ragged was more iridescent than the average female; she had two bald spots on her head and was afflicted with ecto parasites, some of which were collected and sent to the Entomology Department in Washington for identification. A Cardinal, banded December 17, 1932 (adult male), was found dead on the road July 14, 1935, about 800 feet from the station by Mrs. Ed Sullivan. An interesting detail of this recovery is the fact that this bird was color banded and though he evidently occupied territory near the station, he had not visited our grounds in more than a year. For sometime two color banded male Cardinals have occupied our garden, one on each side of the house and this year they have furnished interesting family history. One is A292705 (called "A," banded February 2, 1932) that mated with B234857 (banded on left tarsus February 4, 1933) this spring for the third year; the other male is 34-224709 (banded September 8, 1934, also a green band) and is known as "G." Early this spring A was frequently seen chasing the trespassing, unmated G back to his own territory. By April 12th, G had secured a mate and the A's had two young hatching which left the nest April 22nd (known to have stayed at the station until June 4th). The first egg in the second nest of the A's was laid May 1st, but the nest was robbed and deserted. In the meantime G had young hatching on May 6th, but they evidently came to grief for when the nest was visited a week later to band the young, it was empty and neither they nor the mother bird were seen later. A also disappeared sometime early in May and when the left banded female hatched her two young in her third nest about June 6th, it was found that G was now her mate and was carrying food from the drop trap to feed the young. One nestling was killed by a Blue Jay when about a week old; the other left the same day and was seen at the station until late July. On July 30th, G and this same mother bird successfully brought off two more young which at the present date (September 9) are still following the parents, begging occasionally but apparently no longer being fed. Distinctive banding proved this female laid four sets of eggs, successfully reared three broods, from which five birds reached adult size and that she secured her neighbor as a mate very quickly after the probable death of her old mate. A pair of Bluebirds occupying a nest box in the garden remained together for at least two nestings this year through they occupied different nest boxes for each brood. This contrasts with the record of the other male mentioned previously that had occupied the same nest box three years but for the four known broods raised in that time, he had four different mates.

NASHVILLE, TENN., September 9, 1935.

AMONG OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Whatever success may have accrued to **The Migrant** is due to those of our members who have contributed their writings to its columns. With the thought that our readers would be interested in knowing something of the personal side of these contributors, the following sketches have been prepared. Lack of space and information makes it necessary to postpone the completion of this list until a future issue.

John Bamburg (joined the T. O. S. in 1928.) He was born at Paducah, Ky., Dec. 9, 1902, and has been studying birds about fifteen years. He lived at Memphis when he first joined but later moved to Knoxville and just recently has accepted a position in educational work for the T. V. A. at Wheeler Dam, Ala. He is the author of a useful little booklet on identifying birds afield.

John B. Calhoun (T. O. S. 2-8-32) of Nashville has entered the University of Virginia this fall to take a course in biology. He was born at Elkton, Giles County, Tenn., May 11, 1917, and is therefore one of our youngest members. "Jack" is endowed with tireless energy and enthusiasm and lets no obstacles stop him when in search of new birds. We will miss him.

Ben B. Coffey, Jr. (T. O. S. 1-21-27, Pres. 1933-'34, V-Pres. West Tenn.) of Memphis is a fire insurance inspector by profession. By avocation he is an ornithologist and a leader in Boy Scout work and in the latter capacity has developed the interest of many Scouts along the line of bird study. He was born at Nashville April 28, 1904, and has been studying birds for eleven years. Our subject is a Trojan for field work and no trip or weather is too arduous or strenuous to deter him from having his day with the birds. His chief interests are distribution, migration, conservation and bird banding.

Mrs. Ben B. Coffey (T. O. S. 1931) is a Mississippian by birth and has been studying birds for five years. In off hours at home she does a bit of bird banding but is happiest when searching with her husband for water birds in the sloughs and swamps south of Memphis. The Coffeys have an excellent library of bird books for reference.

Dr. Cynthia Cunningham Counce (T. O. S. 5-15-1931) is associate physician at Lynnburst Sanitorium, Oakville, near Memphis. She was born at Princeton, Ky., and has been interested in observing birds for ten years. Her chief interests are in song birds and in feeding birds in winter.

John L. Craig (T. O. S. 10-22-1933) of Nashville is connected with the promotion department of the Nashville Banner. He was born in 1881 at Culleoka, in Maury County, Tenn. While at Vanderbilt he established a reputation as one of the greatest halfbacks in Southern football history. Mr. Craig, a gifted writer, during 1933 founded and edited **The Open Trails** (now suspended) in an effort to develop interest in outdoor sports.

Compton Crook (T. O. S. 12-12-'27, Sec'y.Treas. 1929-1931), was born June 14, 1908, at Rossville, Fayette County, Tenn., and is a graduate of Peabody College at Nashville where he majored in biology. This fall he has joined the faculty of Western Reserve University at Cleveland, Ohio. He took up bird study about twelve years ago, has built up a good library and is most interested in migration and distribution.

Miss Mary Davant (T. O. S. 1929) is Reference Librarian at the Cossitt Library in Memphis. She was born in that city and has been interested in birds since childhood. Miss Davant was President of the Memphis Chapter in 1932-'33 and is interested in the literature of birds.

George Davis (T. O. S. 1-20-1931) is head of the Department of Science at State Teachers College, Murfreesboro. He was born in Knox County, Tennessee, Nov. 19, 1870, and has been studying birds about seventeen years. Professor Davis is particularly interested in field observation and methods of identification.

Mrs. Sandford Duncan (T. O. S. 1-28-1921) of Nashville lives out on the Gallatin Pike in one of those rural settings where the birds and their observers like to get together. An invitation to "Duncana" always means a pleasant outing with a hostess who knows her birds.

Dan R. Gray (T. O. S. 10-20-1916) is one of our very earliest members. He is a native of Pennsylvania and was formerly engaged in the manufacture of iron. He now owns a splendid farm near Mt. Pleasant and spends his leisure time in hunting and in observing birds. He essayed falconry for a time with some success.

Vera Kearby (Mrs. E. L.) Fox (T. O. S. 10-28-1923, Sec'y. 1931) now of Beaumont, Texas, joined the Society when a student at Peabody College. She had an enviable attendance record at meetings, helped make the Field Day outings a success, assisted in producing the first volume of **The Migrant** and served as our capable Secretary before returning to Texas in 1931.

Wayland J. Hayes (T. O. S. 2-7-1930, Pres. 1931) is a member of the faculty of Vanderbilt University at Nashville. Dr. Hayes spends his summers at the University of Virginia where he teaches ornithology during the summer session. He is interested in all phases of bird work.

Damon Headden (T. O. S. 4-21-1933) is our State Director of Fish and Game Conservation. He is a native of West Tennessee and has always been interested in wild life. T. O. S. members are pleased with the administration of Mr. Headden and particularly so with the educational program being sponsored by his department which is designed to mould a greater appreciation for wild life than now exists.

Harry P(earle) Ijams (T. O. S. Sept., 1923, Pres. 1932, V.-Pres. East Tenn. 1923-'30) is a commercial artist and lives at Knoxville. He was born in that city July 20, 1876, and has been a student of bird life for thirty years. He and his charming wife, Alice Yoe Ijams, are the owners of "Island Home" bird sanctuary where they live close to nature. Their place has been "bird headquarters" for our Knoxville members for many years and there they find an excellent library of bird books as well as the collection of mounted birds that have been taken locally from time to time. His specialties are conservation and migration.

Amelia R. (Mrs. Fred C.) Laskey (T. O. S. 2-27-1928, Sec'y. 1932-'34) of Nashville is a home-maker, coming to us in 1911 from Chicago but being a native of Indiana. We are very proud of Mrs. Laskey's work and regard her as the foremost exponent of bird-banding in the South today. More than 5,600 birds has she banded to date and her station list shows that these embrace 88 species. Best of all is her ability to weigh the results of her work and to write up her findings in accurate as well as entertaining style.

Robert B. Lyle (T. O. S. 12-1-1931) of Johnson City is connected with the mercantile business. He was born at that city August 24, 1888, and has been interested in birds since a boy. At an early date he began the formation of what has become a very fine collection of eggs. These he keeps with immaculate care for study and comparison.

Franklin McCamey (T. O.S. 7-9-1931) of Memphis, was born in that city April 5, 1919, and is a student in Central High School. Frank began his bird study under Scoutmaster Coffey and is one of the most diligent and accurate of our younger observers. His particular interests are shorebirds, migration and bird-banding.

Harry C. Monk (T. O. S. 2-28-1919, Sec'y. 1920-25, Pres. 1926, V.-Pres. 1928) of Nashville became a member when a Boy Scout of 17. Being an energetic field worker, with a propensity for writing up his notes and records, he has contributed substantial information on the birds of the Nashville area. He owns a good reference library.

Nancy Lee (Mrs. Wm. P.) Morgan (T. O. S. 3-14-1916) lives on a Maury County farm close to Columbia and says she has been interested in birds as far back as she can remember. By providing her bird friends with food, water and attractive home sites, she has them with her the year round in unusual numbers.

Samuel A. Ogden (T. O. S. Sept. 1923) is connected with the Fidelity Trust Co. of Knoxville. He was born at that city Aug. 22, 1876, and has been interested in birds for about twenty years. Mr. Ogden is chiefly interested in field observation and is a skillful taxidermist.

James A. Robins (T. O. S. 11-271921, V.-Pres. 1921-'28) of Nashville, Tenn., was born Feb. 3, 1868, at Guntown, Miss. Until a few years ago Professor Robins was stationed at McKenzie, Tenn., where he was head of the McTyeire School for Boys. He is interested in bird study from a recreational standpoint.

Vernon Sharp, Jr. (T. O. S. 11-18-1921, Pres. 1928-'29, Curator 1935) of Nashville is in the general insurance business but finds time to coach Vanderbilt's freshmen football team during the fall. During his college days Vernon made a great reputation playing center on the varsity and his fellow T. O. S. members attributed his success to his method of spring training. This consisted of tramping the Overton Hills forest and climbing the biggest, toughest trees in order to pry into the nesting affairs of Great Horned Owls, Red-Tailed Hawks and Pileated Woodpeckers.

Jesse M(ilton) Shaver (T. O. S. 10-20-1916, V.-Pres. 1925-'26, Pres. 1927) is head of the Department of Biology at Peabody College at Nashville. He was born at Gerber, Walker County, Georgia, Nov. 29, 1888. Dr. Shaver is a graduate of the University of Tennessee and of Vanderbilt University. In 1928 he received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. In designing his courses in biology at Peabody College he has included ornithology among the electives and it has proven to be a popular subject with those taking the course. As Editor of The Journal of the Tenn. Academy of Science he frequently includes articles on ornithology in that publication.

Henry O. Todd (T. O. S. 2-15-1935) of Murfreesboro is Supervisor in the Wellwood Silk Mills. He was born near Satterfield, in Cannon County, and has been interested in birds for nineteen years. He is building up a representative collection of eggs of the birds of his county.

James A. Trent, Jr. (T. O. S. 1926) of Knoxville is engaged in the printing business. He was born at that city on Christmas Day, 1908, and has been interested in birds since a small boy. He is most interested in water birds and is the author of the paper which appeared in our last issue on the water birds of East Tennessee.

Bruce P. Tyler (T. O. S. 4-11-1932, V-Pres. East Tenn. 1934-'35) of Johnson City is Land Agent for the Clinchfield Coal Corporation. He was born at Brooklyn, Pa., Sept. 17, 1874, and says he has been studying birds "always." Mr. Tyler, together with his co-worker, Mr. Lyle, has made many valued contributions to our columns on the birds of his section. He is very successful as a bird photographer and is interested in all phases of ornithology.

Harry Scott Vaughn (T. O. S. 11-10-1916, V.-Pres. 1921-'23, Pres. 1924-'25) of Nashville is a general contractor, specializing in residential work. He was born at Summerfield, Ala., Jan. 4, 1870, and says he has been interested in bird study since he was a boy of 15. At that time he began a collection

of bird eggs and when he revived his interest, on coming into the T. O. S. in 1916, he set about remaking his collection. He now has one of the most complete collection of the kind in the entire country, there being 633 species represented by one or more clutches of eggs. He is an expert photographer of bird nests with both movie and still camera, an interesting speaker and one of our most active members.

William M. Walker, Jr. (T. O. S. 2-17-1922, Sec'y. 1926-'28) of Knoxville is a chemist on the staff of the Tenn. Valley Authority. He was born at Hopkinsville, Ky., Sept. 20, 1900, and has been a student of bird life since 1916. His specialty is the study of bird life of definite areas.

Benjamin R. Warriner (T. O. S. Jan., 1933) is in the insurance business at Corinth, Miss., which is so close to the state line that we have "annexed" him to Tennessee. He was born at Corinth June 10, 1882, and has been studying birds for twelve years, although he says he was interested in them since boyhood. His chief fort is migration.

R(obert) A(dams) Wilson (T. O. S. 10-26-1917) of Nashville is on the staff of the Nashville Banner and has been editor of its "Fins, Furs and Feathers" Sunday feature for twenty-five years. He was born at Cannonsburg, Pa., July 8, 1954, and so far as we know is our oldest member. He is a finished writer and says his chief interest in birds lies in their aesthetic contribution to the cheer of life.

George B. Woodring (T. O. S. 12-12-1927, Editor 1930-34) of Nashville is a bank teller by occupation. He was born at Nashville August 5, 1904, and has been interested in birds about fifteen years. Mr. Woodring was The Migrant's first Editor and recalls with pleasure "the midnight oil" he burned while trying to get it out on time. He is chiefly interested in life history studies and in the water birds of Radnor Lake.

LARGE FLOCKS OF DOVES: After the nesting season, Doves usually gather together in small flocks of from six to twenty and are generally observed in those numbers during the winter. Frequently, however, singles or twos and threes are encountered. There are times, however, when the presence of much feed in fields will attract many of these scattered groups with the result that an immense flock is assembled. Mr. L. C. Jacobs, Chairman of the Tennessee Fish and Game Commission, relates that on Jan. 1, 1935, near Manchester, he saw at least 500 Doves in a buckwheat field and that in another field nearby in which sorghum had been raised, there was another very large flock. Mr. W. O. Tirrill of Nashville saw a flock of about 400 on Dec. 14, 1934, near the eastern line of Sumner County. They were feeding in a corn field in which many of the ears had been left ungathered. In Sunflower County, Mississippi, on Jan. 22, 1935, Mr. W. L. White reports seeing a flock which he estimated at more than 1,000, during a spell of very cold weather. A large flock that was very unusual, because of the lateness of the date, was seen on April 9, 1916, feeding on the ground in an open wooded pasture. At this date, many of the local Doves were nesting so it is probable that the flock consisted of northern birds engaged in migration. This last mentioned flock, about 200 in number, was seen by the Editor.

A LIST OF T. O. S. OFFICERS

By Harry C. Monk

Examination of the Minutes of the Society gives the following list of officers since the beginning. Prior to 1930, elections were held on the Fall Field Day but after that date they were held on the Spring Field Day and terms of office begin on July 1st following.

Year	*President*	*Vice-Pres. East Tenn.*	*Vice-Pres. Mid. Tenn.*	*Vice-Pres. West Tenn.*	*Secty. or Sec.-Treas.*	*Curator*
1915	Webb	----------	Hughes	----------	Merritt	Ganier
1916	"	----------	"	----------	Mayfield	"
1917	"	Hughes	Strong	Maury	"	"
1918	"	"	"	"	Haslock	"
1919	"	McDonald	Mayfield	"	"	"
1920	Mayfield	"	Webb	"	Monk	"
1921	"	"	Vaughn	Robins	"	"
1922	Ganier	"	"	"	"	McNish
1923	"	Ijams	"	"	"	"
1924	Vaughn	"	Mrs. Mayfield	"	"	Ganier
1925	"	"	Shaver	"	Sterry	"
1926	Monk	"	"	"	Walker	"
1927	Shaver	"	McNish	"	"	"
1928	Sharp	"	Monk	"	"	"
1929	"	"	"	Coffey	Crook	"
1930	Ganier	"	Hayes	"	"	Monk
1931	Ijams	Bamberg	"	"	"	Ganier
1932	Coffey	Crouch	"	----------	Laskey	"
1933	"	Ijams	Mayfield	----------	"	"
1934	Mayfield	Tyler	Vaughn	Coffey	"	"
1935	"	"	"	"	Bamberg	Sharp

Editor-Treasurer, G. B. Woodring (1930-1934), A. F. Ganier (1935—).

THE ROUND TABLE

BELL'S VIREO AT MEMPHIS: The small "unimproved" area between the rear of some North Parkway homes and the L. & N. R. R. tracks, and in the shadow of the Sears-Roebuck building, has proved an unusual bird haven. A clump of trees, bushes, vines, and back-yard hedges, along a creek, shelter quite a number of nesting birds. Since the Painted Bunting (pair No. 4 of last summer) nests here, this spot has been often visited. The song of a Warbling Vireo was also pointed out to bird students and an occasional Red-eye or White-eye Vireo noted. However, the short song of a vireo, apparently the Warbling with "off" notes, finally brought realization of a bird song different from the others. The song seemed to be a cross between that of the Warbling and that of the White-eyed and I determined to identify its owner. The singer proved to be a small vireo closely resembling the White-eyed species. It possessed white wing-bars and the yellow underneath was less intense than that of the White-eyed. The eye was conspicuously dark and the eye-ring was faint if present at all. Its song was studiously learned and later seemed more to resemble that of the Bluebird and of the Warbling Vireo. This bird was seen many times and was shown on June 24th to Messrs. Eugene Odum and Coit Coker, of Chapel Hill, N. C., who later wrote

from the West that the "Sears-Roebuck Vireo" closely resembled the Least Vireo (*Vireo belli pusillus*). The nest and two spoiled eggs of this vireo was found on June 30, built four feet up in an elm bush in the thicket. It was abandoned shortly after, and I was unable to locate another although the pair scolded from likely places. Following our local precedent (as set in the case of the formerly very rare Painted Bunting), we did not collect one of the birds to substantiate a first Tennessee record of what we feel sure was the Bell's Vireo (*Vireo belli belli*). Rather we hope to find it here again next spring at the same locality. Knowing the other vireos by sight and song, we feel that no mistake has been made here; the bird tallies with the description of the Bell's, especially as to its song. BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis.

A WHITE IBIS NEAR MEMPHIS: On the morning of September 2, while struggling through the foot of soft mud that overlies a small shallow pond just south-east of North Lake, about eight miles south-west of Memphis, I noticed a peculiarly shaped heron-like bird, sitting on a dead snag about 100 yards away. With the glasses, it appeared to have reddish-orange legs, and a very long, down-curved reddish bill, with which it was preening its feathers; the rest of the plumage was a grayish white. Disregarding the two hundred shore birds that fed in the shallow water nearby, I was attempting to approach closer to this queer bird, when, with a loud squawk, he left his perch, circled over my head, and then struck out over the lake. This manoeuvre clearly showed his black-tipped primaries, entirely white plumage, and curved bill; he flew with neck outstretched and was slightly larger than a Little Blue Heron. A thorough search of the lake failed to flush the bird again, but the light was good, the distance (when he flew over) less than fifty feet, and there is no other bird which this description would fit except the White Ibis (*Guara alba*). This bird is a summer resident in South Carolina, Florida and along the Gulf Coast. The present record is the first for this species in Tennessee.—FRANKLIN MCCAMEY, Memphis.

BIRDS ABOUT A FARM HOME: We live in summer in a log cottage on a Giles County farm, and the birds which nest about the place are numerous and afford us much pleasure. The house is set in a two-acre grove of black locust trees which in turn is surrounded by pastured lands. A never-failing spring flows from the hillside near the house and this perhaps is one reason we have so many birds nesting near. The birds which nest in and about the grove are as follows: Orchard Orioles 10 pairs, Mockingbirds 5 pairs, Catbirds 3 pairs, Doves 4 pairs, Brown Thrashers 2 pairs, Summer Tanagers 2 pairs, Blue-jays 5 pairs, Bluebirds 3 pairs, Bewick's Wrens 2 pairs, Carolina Wren, Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Chimney Swift, Chipping Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, and Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1 pair each. Birds seen daily but whose nests have not been located are Carolina Chickadees, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Black-and-White Warblers, Wood Pewees and Field Sparrows. From a thicket across the field comes the song of a Chat and Meadow Larks and Killdeers live in the open fields about. Down near the creek, in a grove of beech trees, near the barn, a pair of Barn Owls have their headquarters, and an old darkey tenant who lives there hears the young give their odd calls during the summer. Many other sorts of birds of course make occasional visits to the place.—SARAH OGLEVIE (MRS. SAM H.) ROGERS, Buford.

THE DOVE HUNTING SEASON: The season for hunting these birds, which has heretofore been from September 1st to December 15th, has been set forward in the South to from September 21st to January 5th, by the U. S. Biological Survey. The chief reason is because of the fact that some doves

extend their nesting into September and late reared birds are of small size and offer easy targets. Some further reasons which occur to us are as follows: Many hunters will not resist the temptation to shoot other game, such as quail, if allowed afield with a gun; while doves have held their own fairly well, still the advent of fast highways and auto transportation now puts ten hunters in the field to one two decades ago and the doves can scarcely continue to stand the strain; the usual hot dry weather of September 1, brings doves to water holes and shooting them there, as is a favored custom, partakes of the nature of "baiting", now outlawed for ducks; the hunters who contend that the doves will all be gone by October 1, are in error for these birds will not leave a grain growing state like Tennessee to go south into cotton country. Giving up the custom of hunting doves on the Labor Day holiday is a point that has been raised with some merit and about the only counter we can offer to that is that the first of September usually finds the weather too hot to hunt.

We referred the question to our fellow member, Dan R. Gray, of the Maury County grain belt, because as a keen bird student and lover of hunting as well, we felt him best qualified to size up the situation. Mr. Gray's reply, in which we concur, is given below:

"In regard to the new limits for the dove season. The way I feel about it, the sportsmen ought to favor the season that would be more likely to perpetuate the shooting, and while it is true that it would be easier to kill the limit on Sept. 1 than it would be on Oct. 1, I am in favor of the later season, and most of my friends here seem to feel the same way, although a friend or two in Columbia, when I was there last week, seemed to feel the other way, in fact, one of them said if they would open the season Sept. 1, and make it last only two weeks, he would like it better than a season from Sept. 21 to Jan. 5. You are right about the numbers of young doves on Sept. 1; also the old ones have not completed their moult by that time, and of course fly faster later on. It is true, however, that they do not feed in the wheat stubble after the weeds and vines cover the ground, for they do not like to feed in heavy cover. But as wheat is cut in June and July and the weeds have six weeks or more to grow, they are generally about as thick on Sept. 1 as they are on Oct. 1. The point they make about Labor Day I think is not worth much. If a man wants to shoot doves, he will buy a license, no matter when the season opens.

"In regard to the doves being 'all gone' by October 1; if they were not shot at in September, I think they would stay. I expect a lot of the talk the sportsmen are putting up is due to disappointment in having to wait a month longer. Everybody who has shot doves knows that any grain field where they congregate is only good for a few days shooting, as they get wild quickly and will leave any place where they are persistently shot at. I think that doves around here have decreased some, but not very much, in the last 20 years. There are not as many as usual this year, due to the fact that the ground was covered with ice and snow for a couple of weeks last winter, and many of them froze and starved to death.

"Personally, I would much rather work hard all day and get the limit, than to sit under a bush and kill the limit in an hour. When I do that, I feel like I have lost a day's sport—a sort of 'nothing to do 'till tomorrow' feeling. I believe the later season will result in our having more doves in the State, and that is what the sportsmen ought to want."—DAN R. GRAY, Mount Pleasant.

SCARCITY OF BIRDS IN LATE SUMMER: This bird note is for the purpose of telling what I do not know rather than what I do know. My purpose is to invite from readers of *The Migrant* notes and articles that will tend to solve my question: What becomes of the birds in July-August-September? What becomes, more particularly, of the Orchard Orioles in late summer? This bird arrives in the Mid-South in April, and nests here. During the month of June it is common along the roadsides, in yards, and orchards almost everywhere. Suddenly, say the last of July or sooner, the bird disappears. Where does he go? Also, what happens to many other kinds of birds at this season? Of course, it is generally understood that after the nesting season nearly all of the birds grow quiet. They sing less, indeed many kinds seem to leave off singing entirely. But surely many of them leave the country. In the early summer here in North-east Mississippi, four miles from Tennessee, the Indigo Buntings are among the most abundant of the migrants. A walk through their usual haunts in early September reveals only a few scattered ones. The same is true of the warblers. In the woods an occasional wood thrush is seen or heard, but they are not to be compared in numbers with their abaundance of early summer. Summer Tanagers are still found, though rarely. Is an answer found in the fact that the birds are still here, but dull and listless and therefore difficult to find? Or do they actually leave the country? If they leave, where do they go?—BENJAMIN R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

RADNOR LAKE NOTES: The Loon that was first seen on Radnor Lake Dec. 13th, was recorded there each Sunday until it was found nearly dead on July 10th, floating upon the surface of the water. Upon examination, the bird was found to be very emaciated, there being very little flesh on its body. There was no apparent reason for this condition as the bird was observed a few weeks before its death, feeding upon a small sun fish. This explains the unusually late records for this Loon as have been recorded in these notes before. There were seven Terns, believed to be Least Terns, flying over the lake on Sept. 1st. The first water fowl seen on the lake this fall were observed on Sept. 22nd, 4 Horned Grebes. A few late nesting records as taken from my note book; a colony of Barn Swallows feeding young in their nests on June 30th, Kingbird with young June 30th, Chat nest with 1 egg and 1 small young on July 14th.—GEORGE B. WOODRING, Nashville.

HOW A CUCKOO ATE A CATERPILLAR: On September 9, while out looking for birds, I saw a Yellow-billed Cuckoo light on a large electric wire about twenty feet away. I noticed that the bird had a hairy caterpillar about one and a half or two inches long in its bill. Instead of giving the caterpillar a few sharp blows against the wire to kill it before swallowing it, I noticed that the cuckoo was working it up into a pulp by releasing it and then catching it again a little nearer one end. By this means the caterpillar was worked through the bill from one end to the other several times until it was literally a pulp. All this time I was wondering if the Cuckoo was not just sucking the juice from the caterpillar and did not intend swallowing it at all. But, after the caterpillar was thoroughly pulped up, it was swallowed in the usual fashion.—GEORGE DAVIS, Murfreesboro.

REELFOOT LAKE improvements are under way, by C.C.C. forces, which will make the attractions of the Lake and its swamps more accessible to naturalists. Boatways, trails, foot-logs and markers are planned and these will enable visitors to penetrate at any season into places where one must now wade and employ a guide. The creation of an herbarium about the Biological Station at Walnut Log is one of the objectives.

A TRIP TO A HIGHLAND MARSH: About seven miles north of Springfield there is a thirty-acre marsh in a low area of the more or less level country which surrounds it. In early spring, the low woods adjacent are also flooded to a shallow depth. The marsh proper is well grown with cat-tails and other sorts of marsh grasses, interspersed with thick patches of button-bushes and occasional dead tree trunks and stumps. The place holds water the year round and has small fish and minnows in it.

During the afternoon of May 18 and the morning of May 19, I spent a number of pleasant hours at this interesting place. The bird life here is of such variety as can only be found in a few other spots in Middle Tennessee. From the Red-shouldered Hawk, soaring with its young, to the Pronthonotary Warbler, building its nest in a knot hole, there is an unexcelled array of avian life. Most of the afternoon of the eighteenth I spent in hunting for the King Rail or its nest, but to no avail (see *Migrant* June '34, p. 28). However, a better discovery was made. As I came through a patch of button-bushes, a female Wood Duck whistled over my head. It undoubtedly had young for as I searched the plot that it had arisen from it repeatedly flew over my head. My belief was substantiated when, on the following morning, from the railroad at the other extremity of the marsh, I saw another Wood Duck lead six ducklings across some open water in the cat-tails. These six brown, downy youngsters followed their mother in double file until I plunged in after them, whereupon they disappeared into the rushes. In all probabilities these birds nested in the Pileated Woodpecker holes that adorned the dead trees. The evening of the eighteenth, as I walkd toward my camp (an abandond cabin), a Woodcock arose in a twisting flight from the shaded bog where it had been feeding. That night I was entertained by the peepings of the tree frogs, the resonant bellowings of the bull frogs and the distant laughing call of the Barred Owl.

A pouring rain awoke me the following morning, and, to my dismay, it continued with scarcely a stop until eleven o'clock. While waiting for the rain to abate, I spent some time in watching a Wood Pewee build its nest, which is an enlargement of that of a Hummingbird, in a sweet gum tree near the cabin. At ten o'clock I realized that the rain had no intention of stopping, so I started out to see how the birds were faring. As I entered the marsh I was greeted by a sweet song that was quite unfamiliar to me. There were five notes in the song, which resembled that of the Carolina Wren; the two last notes were on a descending scale. For nearly fifteen minutes I followed this elusive songster through the button-bushes, but was unable to get even a glimpse of it. Finally, I decided that I might as well stop and let it make the next move. Its curiosity soon caused it to fly into a cottonwood tree overhead to get a look at me. Although I remained there for only two or three seconds, its appearance was thoroughly imprinted in my mind. It was neither heard or seen again. Its size, a yellow breast, a grey hood, and a black band at the base of the hood in front, identified it as a Mourning Warbler, one of Tennessee's rarest transients. The three or four other local spring records also occur during the middle of May.

Through the small trees on the west side of the marsh a family of five White-breasted Nuthatches searched diligently up and down the trunks for insects. Leaving the wooded area I again entered the more open part. It was surprising to note the scarcity of Red-wing Blackbirds. Only five pair were seen. In every dead tree there were Downy and Red-bellied Woodpecker holes, some of which contained the nests of the Crested Flycatcher, Chickadee, Titmouse, Prothonotary Warbler, and Sparrow Hawk. Reluctant though I was to leave this fertile field of observation, a glance at my watch told me that I must be on my way. As I left, a Red-shouldered Hawk circled overhead to bid me a final farewell.—JACK CALHOUN, Nashville.

BARN OWLS AND OTHER NOTES: For the last three years we have had a pair of Barn Owls nesting in the hollow trees on my lawn. This year they came off about the first of July, and the old ones seem to be still feeding the two young ones, as we can hear them crying every night. The young ones have a rasping cry different from the scream of the old birds. In 1933 these owls raised two broods, one, of three, coming off late in June, and one of two coming off in November. The November brood were still crying about nearly to Christmas. I don't know whether this is usual or not, but it is the only instance I know of. Last year, 1934, the owls only had one young one. In 1933 there was another nest of Barn Owls at a neighbor's farm, about a mile distant. A pair of Screech Owls nest near the house every year, but the different owls do not seem to interfere with each other. . . I see the pair of Pileated Woodpeckers every day or two about the place, but they do not come very near the house, and probably will not until the magnolia seeds are ripe... I have seen no Upland Plover so far this year but heard one passing over late one evening. Mr. Scott tells me that he heard one last week, but could not locate it.—DAN R. GRAY, Mount Pleasant.

NESTING NOTES FROM MURFREESBORO: Some late season nesting dates are as follows: Chuck-Wills-Widow, June 27, 2 eggs, incubation 8 days, one egg nearly unmarked; Prairie Warbler, July 2, 4 eggs, 1 fresh; King Rail, July 2, 12 eggs; Black Vulture, July 7, 1 addled egg and 1 young a week old (on Sept. 15 this young bird was still in the nest); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, July 8, 3 young a week old; Cooper's Hawk, July 10, 4 young, left nest July 29, nest very large and had been used for three years; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, July 17, 1 fresh egg, nest very small; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, July 17, 4 eggs with 1 of the Cowbird, all eggs spoiled; Goldfinch, July 11, 3 eggs, fresh, and another on July 19 with 5 fresh eggs; Indigo Bunting, Aug. 4, 3 fresh eggs. Of the Wood Pewee, 8 nests with fresh eggs (2 or 3) were found on these dates: June 13, 14, 16, July 5, 8, 15, 17 and 29. Most of the latter were second sets. The one on July 29 was the third set for this pair and the one egg was laid in the first nest, in which young were reared. A second nesting in early July was unsuccessful. Eight pair of Lark Sparrows have been located along the Hall's Hill Pike; in addition to the nests described in June *Migrant*, a nest with 4 eggs was found on June 8. On June 27 nests of the Killdeer and Nighthawk were found within 10 feet of each other; they were on a rocky glade and held 2 eggs each. A Killdeer nested on the flat graveled roof of the one-story Wellwood Silk Mills at Murfreesboro and on May 23, the four young were seen running along the edge of the roof. Possibly assisted by a gusty breeze, they soon fell the 15 feet to the graveled road below; one was killed by the fall but the others got up and trotted off. Being but a few days old, they had sprouted no wing feathers to help lighten their fall. The female nested again on the building and about six weeks later another brood was seen on the roof but I had no opportunity to check up on their fate.—HENRY O. TODD, Murfreesboro.

GOLDEN EAGLE IN CLAY CO.: On my rounds, on July 4, I found a Golden Eagle that had been shot by a boy of 14 at close range. This was in Clay County on Line Creek near the Kentucky line. The only injury this bird received was that the end of one wing was completely shot off making it impossible for it to ever fly again. This eagle is a beautiful full grown bird and I confiscated it for the Department of Fish and Game.—L. G. REED, *District Game Protector*, Gainesboro, Tennessee.

Note: This eagle was shipped by Mr. Damon Headden, State Director of Fish and Game, to a small zoo at Columbia where he will be well taken care of. The boy was given a lecture by Mr. Reed.—*Editor.*

AN ALBINO RED-TAILED HAWK: About January 5, there was caught in a trap about 20 miles south of Chattanooga, at McLemore Cove, an albino Red-tailed Hawk. The plumage of the bird is entirely pure white except for a small blackish speck on the left shoulder. About ten days later the bird was brought to Chattanooga and I took the opportunity to examine and measure it. The bill is white, somewhat pinkish at the base; the pupil black; the iris apparently yellowish, though I was not able to see it clearly in the dim light available; the tarsi yellow and the claws mostly black. The measurements are as follows; length 19.5, wing 14.75 and tail 9.0, all in inches. These agree with the measurements of the male Red-tailed Hawk; the female of the Red-shouldered, the only hawk with which it might be confused, is appreciably smaller. The captive had been fed a squirrel and a chicken when I saw it, the owner no doubt thinking it was the standard diet for this bird. I urged him to release it, but have been unable to learn of its final disposition. WILBUR K. BUTTS, Chattanooga.

[NOTE:—There is a published record, with photo, of a perfect albino Red-tailed Hawk, captured near Nashville in 1930. This was reported on by Dr. H. C. Sanborn in *The Wilson Bulletin*, Vol. 42, p. 220.—*Editor.*]

A SEPTEMBER CENSUS AT KNOXVILLE: The annual (all day) fall migration census by the Knoxville group was taken on Sept. 15. Seventy species of birds were listed by the twenty-five observers who took the field. The Island Home bird sanctuary served as the focal point for the listing, which also included the Island Airport and the Tennessee River. Since no September bird lists have appeared in *The Migrant* the species noted are recorded below.

Green heron, turkey vulture, Cooper's hawk, sparrow hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, bob-white, killdeer, spotted sandpiper, mourning dove, yellow-billed cuckoo, screech owl, nighthawk, chimney swift, hummingbird, kingfisher, hairy woodpecker, downy woodpecker, pileated woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, red-bellied woodpecker, flicker, kingbird, phoebe, wood pewee, Acadian flycatcher, blue jay, purple martin, crow, tufted titmouse, chickadee, white-breasted nuthatch, Carolina wren, Bewick's wren, brown thrasher, mockingbird, catbird, wood thrush, olive-backed thrush, robin, bluebird, blue-gray gnatcatcher, cedar waxwing, starling, red-eyed vireo, yellow-throated vireo, white-eyed vireo, black and white warbler, Tennessee warbler, magnolia warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, pine warbler, Wilson warbler, prairie warbler, Kentucky warbler, Maryland yellowthroat, yellow-breasted chat, Canadian warbler, red-start, meadowlark, orchard oriole, purple grackle, summer tanager, English sparrow, American goldfinch, field sparow, song sparrow, towhee, cardinal, indigo bunting.—H. P. IJAMS, Knoxville.

OBSERVATIONS FROM NORTH-EAST TENNESSEE: The Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) put in its appearance near Johnson City, Tennessee, April 20, 1935. This bird had been expected and long was the vigil for it. There were reports, a year or more ago, of its appearance in North Carolina, which added zest to the search. The observation was made along the edge of a "rainy weather" lake. Ample time was had for the inspection with binoculars and I was able to approach within ten feet before provoking flight. This is a casual occurrence of interest. It may indicate a tendency toward extending its breeding ground eastward from that originally occupied west from the Mississippi Valley. The identification is not difficult; the male bird resembles the Red-winged but without red on the wings and has whitish eyes and purplish head. The female is not striped, resembling more the female of the Rusty but is more grayish. This species appears to have the combined characteristics of the Rusty and the Red-winged. I do not like

the names of persons applied to birds. The Brewer's Blackbird does not say much to the student. If the scientific name had been followed, it would have been called the Purple-headed Blackbird. The specific portion of the scientific name, *cyanocephalus*, is derived from the Greek *cyano*, meaning purple and *cephalus*, head, so scientifically speaking we have the purple-headed Euphagus as contrasted with the Carolina Euphagus or Rusty Blackbird.

The Eastern House Wren appeared at Johnson City, Tennessee, April 25, 1935. This species is regularly observed during migration but nests here only with extreme rarity. A few miles to the north, in Virginia, it nests regularly. Perhaps, in time, it will extend its habitat to include this locality. . . . The Northern Water-Thrush was observed at Johnson City, Tennessee, May 5, 1935, a very rare bird in this section. . . . The Yellow-Throated Vireo was found nesting May 19, 1935, on Indian Ridge, about four miles northwardly from Johnson City. The nest was located in an oak tree on the southern slope of a dell just north of the top of the ridge, about twenty feet up and ten feet out, on one of the lower limbs. The nest was made in the usual vireo form, covered with lichens and lashed between forking branches. The nest contained a full clutch of four eggs incubated about four days. This was a rare find.

The Starling continues its useful life here though in somewhat reduced numbers. Since the advent of the Starling there has apparently been a marked reduction in the number of insect pests in our gardens. For instance, I have raised potatoes for two years without applying poison to control the bugs, and this year I have gathered sweet corn unblemished by the corn borer, something not done here for many years. One has but to observe the feeding habits of the Starling to be assured of their value to agriculture. Watch them as a flock of hundred or more birds glean the insects from the farmers fields, strutting along, they turn over each small stone, chip or leaf to find their food. Highly insectiverous, they are a blessing to the farmer. It seems to be the consensus of opinion that we are short about one-third of our native birds. Perhaps this shortage will be replaced by the Starling, resulting in a better control of noxious insects.—BRUCE P. TYLER, Johnson City.

HOW A BOY SCOUT EARNS HIS MERIT BADGE FOR BIRD STUDY:

To obtain a Merit Badge for Bird Study, a Scout must:

1. Produce a list of forty species of wild birds which have been personally observed, and positively identified in the field.
2. Produce a list showing the greatest number of species that he has seen in the field in one week.
3. Produce a list, derived from personal observation, of twenty species of birds particularly noted for their value to agriculture in the destruction of insects.
4. Produce a list, derived from personal reading, of ten birds of prey particularly useful in the destruction of rats and mice.
5. Name ten species of birds particularly useful in protecting the trunks of trees from borers, bark-lice, and scale insects.
6. Describe at least two bird boxes and two food tables that have been erected by him, the species of birds that have been attracted by them, and how many of the birds have nested in these boxes.
7. State what he has done to protect birds from wicked and unjust slaughter; to promote long, closed seasons for vanishing species; and to promote the creation of bird preserves and sanctuaries.

To the experienced bird student these requirements from the "Handbook

for Boys" must seem elementary indeed, and this they really are when we consider how broad and complex the bird field may become for the advanced student, but the beginner, the Scout who has determined to earn his Merit Badge for Bird Study, looks at these requirements with an entirely different aspect. To him they symbolize hours of study over bird books and days of tramping fields, woodlands, and farms. He knows that, although all of the work will be interesting, it will be difficult.

The first requirement which calls for the production of "a list of forty species of wild birds which have been personally observed, and positively identified in the field," has been termed by William T. Hornaday, "a test that will determine the taste and ability of any beginner in the practical study of birds". It is certainly a test that, if completed, will give the Scout an entrance into the bird world. At any rate, all Scouts consider it the most difficult of the seven requirements, probably because of the fact that in completing this one requirement much progress is usually made toward the completion of the other six.

When I first began work on this requirement, I knew only fourteen birds, but by much field work and by the study of books on the subject, I was able to effect a steady increase in the number of my bird acquaintances. I found Chester A. Reed's "Bird Guide" with its colored plates to be an excellent field guide for the beginner, and I am sure that there are other good ones with which I am not familiar. A reliable guide of one sort or another is essential to the progress of every beginner.

While I was working on this first requirement, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to go on a bird hike with Mr. Bruce P. Tyler and Mr. Robert B. Lyle of Johnson City. There is nothing in the course of study of a beginner that is so helpful as an association with a living teacher, who can go in the open with him and name the birds accurately, and I was especially fortunate in having an association with these men, who have had so much experience in the field of bird study.

The third requirement which calls for the production of "a list, derived from personal observation, of twenty species of birds particularly noted for their value to agriculture in the destruction of insects," is a test that calls for some definite work on the part of the Scout in the form of accurate personal observations of the birds of the vicinity to determine which are useful in the destruction of insects. It is not really a difficult test; all that is required is patience. In the woods and in my own yard I was able to see the birds busy at this most useful occupation of destroying man's enemy, the insect.

The other requirements, as I have said, are met naturally as progress is made on the first one, and none of these caused me any particular trouble.

The last two requirements, which state that the scout must have erected bird boxes and food tables and have done something definite "to protect birds from wicked and unjust slaughter," seem to me to require a type of work that is most important and one that should be stressed even more in order that we may keep our bird friends with us.

Now that I have fulfilled the requirements and have qualified for my Merit Badge for Bird Study, I realize that my work has not been without its remuneration. I have had the satisfaction of seeing a difficult task completed, and, because of my study, I shall always have an invaluable personal relationship with nature.—RUSSELL B. DRIVER (*Eagle Scout*), Bristol.

THE MIGRANT

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"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough, it is not necessary to go beyond it."

EDITORIALS

October 7th marks the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, the first State organization of its kind to be attempted in the South. Since that time, we have witnessed the organization of similar societies in Kentucky (1923), in Virginia (1929) and such an organization is now being effected in Georgia. It is hoped that other states will fall in line. National organizations for the study of birds, such as the American Ornithologists' Union and the Wilson Ornithological Club, have been friendly toward the formation of state and local organizations, knowing that they reached and developed new human material by reason of closer contacts.

The Migrant has consistently reserved its pages for the publication of matter pertaining to birds rather than to their observers. On the present occasion, however, it seems fitting to devote the major portion of our space to telling something about the people who have made or who are making the Society possible—who by their organized efforts have enabled those of us who have, in birds, a common interest to know each other. We do not choose to be hermits and no game is worth the playing without the companionship of our fellows.

The accomplishments of the T. O. S. are reviewed on other pages. Cumulatively they are large and although it has sometimes been difficult to perceive them, from month to month, yet we can look back and see a steady and definite development. More people are becoming interested in birds and increasingly do they form the topic of conversation. They are being given notice by far more people, who are anxious to learn something about them. Birds are being regarded as fellow beings rather than as inanimate objects unworthy of notice. Conservation, however, while it ranks high in our program, is not our greatest end for being. Bird protection now an assured reality, the Society may give more attention to the interests of its members with a view of increasing their pleasure by assisting them toward finding pleasant recreation in the study of birds.

The Society's annual Fall Field Day will be held at Nashville on Sunday, Oct. 13, 1935. The day has been designated as the occasion for celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Society's founding and members from all parts of the State and elsewhere are urged to be present. Cars will meet at 16th and Broad at 8:15 A. M., from whence they will go to Idlewild Wood on Stones River. Luncheon will be served on the grounds.

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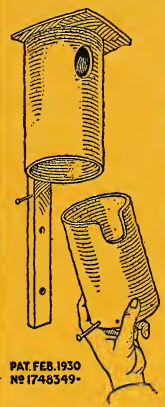

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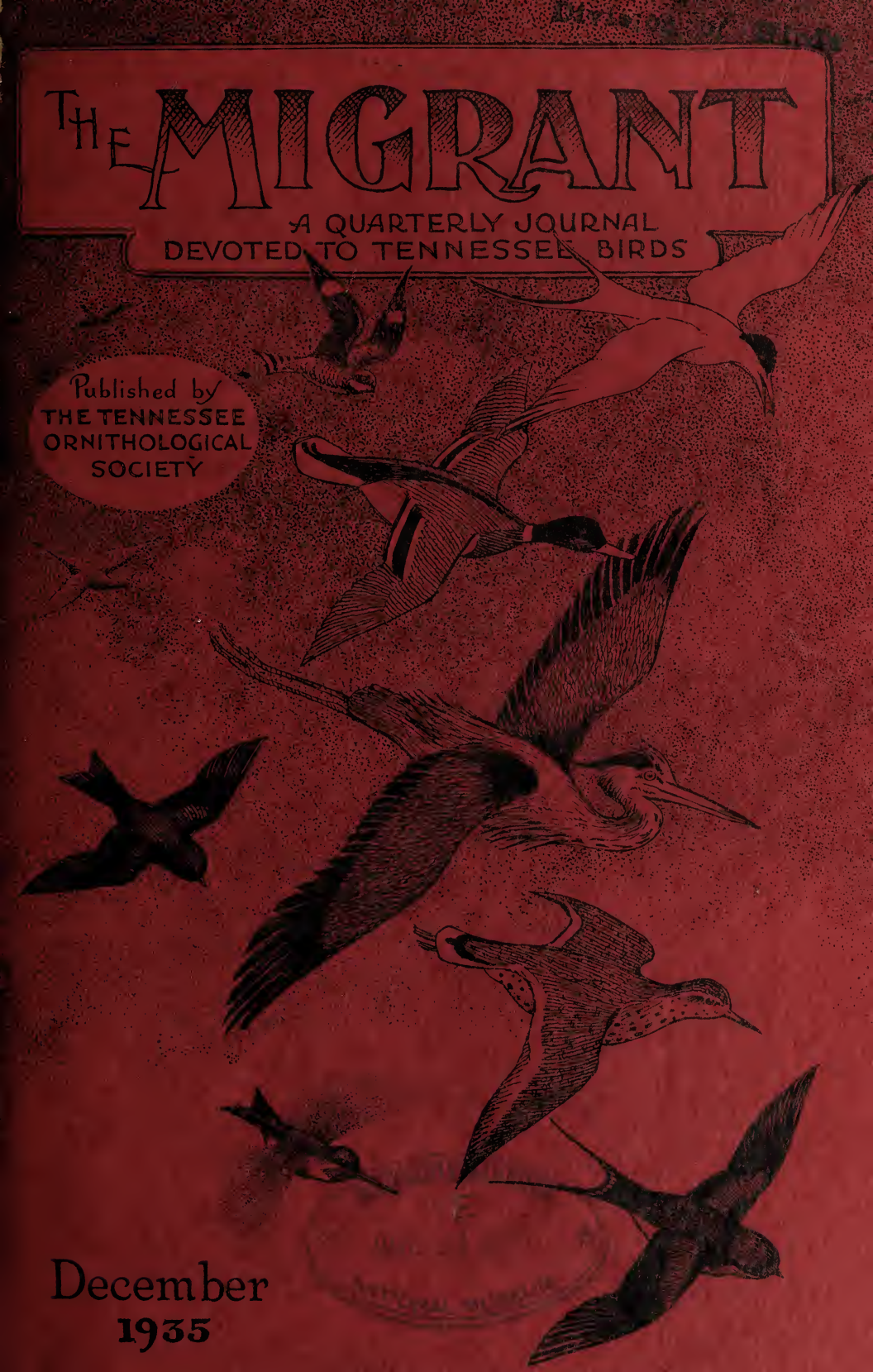

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THE MIGRANT

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NOCTURNAL MIGRATION IN STORMY WEATHER

A Symposium, by members

It is well known that a vast number of our transient species of birds make their principal southward or northward flights during the night. By what means they are able to maintain their sense of direction we do not know unless there is developed in them a sixth sense—that of direction— with which we humans are not endowed. The ability of small birds to maintain themselves in the air during stormy nights and in the face of driving rain, is something to wonder at. It may be that at such times they rise to an altitude above the rain clouds or, failing in this, that they fly closer to earth so that if forced down they may alight with some hope of self preservation. On such nights as these there are a number of instances where migrating birds have been attracted to bright artificial lights and sometimes these occasions are attended with disaster. An instance of this kind occurred here in late October, 1935, and some of the details will probably be of interest.

(By John Bamberg, Wheeler Dam, Ala.) The location of this episode is the new construction village of Wheeler Dam, on the Tennessee River in northern Alabama, about 15 miles south of the Tennessee line. The village sets in an immense open grassy plain which runs on back from the river for some distance, almost completely void of trees; perhaps a hundred and fifty acres. In this field sets the water tower which I judge to be a hundred feet high, strongly lighted, as a combined airport beacon and village light, by four powerful flood lights. All lights are of the fixed, rather than the revolving type. I judged that this light and tower would be a lure for migrating birds, and have been watching it but had not seen much support for my idea until this week.

Tuesday, October 22nd, it rained torrents all day and from 6 P.M. until after midnight it stormed violently. Wednesday it rained lightly a little during the morning, and the sky continued completely overcast with a low ceiling of wet clouds. As I went out at 7:00 P.M. Wednesday I heard bird calls and when I stopped I realized that the air was full of birds, so I walked to the tower. There in the light could be seen hundreds of small birds in the air, most of them circling confusedly in the lighted area, although some were moving straight thru the light. I could not watch them because of an engagement; so I came back at 9:00 o'clock and found the same situaton prevailing. It seemed that the birds were going over in periodic waves at about 20 minute intervals. At one time I estimated that there were 500 birds in view over our heads. Guessing again, I would say that at least 100,000 birds passed over the locality during the night. When I finally gave up watching at 11:30, they were as plentiful as at the beginning, and I could still hear them when I went to bed an hour later.

Before retiring, however, Mrs. Bamberg and I began looking for injured birds on the ground. We found two Wood Pewees which were still alive enough to fly off when we lifted them into the air. Another bird flew from the ground before we were able to identify it. Next, we found a Black-billed Cuckoo and a warbler which were sufficiently alive to be able to take off next

morning after being kept indoors overnight. In addition to these, dead birds were found as follows; Red-eyed Vireo 1, White-eyed Vireo 3, Indigo Bunting 3, Kinglets 4, three which were much soiled but believed to be Yellow-throated Warblers and 11 species which were so muddy and bedraggled they could not certainly be identified. Next morning we went out to search for additional birds. We succeeded in finding more, some of which were so muddy and rain-soaked that some of them may have been killed on Tuesday night. These birds were Bay-breasted Warbler 9, Tennessee Warbler 3, Blackburnian Warbler 2, and 8 which were not in condition to certainly identify. In all, we had picked up 50 victims of the light. Stray cats and other creatures may of course have made away with others.

While we were under the light on Wednesday night we heard larger birds also, going overhead, among which were two flocks of ducks and a flock of geese. Thursday, the night was clear and the birds were flying high but we could hear an occasional note. On Friday night I could not detect any evidence of migration.

(BY BENJ. R. WARRINER, CORINTH, MISS.) On the night of October 23, 1935, here at my home in Corinth, four miles south of the Tennessee line, the air seemed literally alive with migrating birds. Many times before, in the spring and fall, I have stood in the open at night and listened to the calls of flying birds. Medlies of soft chirps and low whistles that came down from threatening clouds. Of course I could not see the birds in the darkness, but I could hear them, and feel with them the high spirit of adventure that drove them happily and courageously on to their retreats in far places.

On this October night the flight surpassed anything I haye eyer witnessed. An autumn storm was on; not severe, but quite a radical change in weather. Clouds were thick; a heavy, rainy mist was falling; brisk wind; temperature around 45. At 7 o'clock a noisy flock of Canada Geese brought me outdoors. The "honkers" soon passed on, and I lingered a moment so that I should not miss even the last indistinct notes that marked their southward course. Then I heard the soft calls of other birds. I strained my eyes to see, but it was too dark. Some of the birds seemed directly overhead; others were high up. On they came, with a steady chorus of musical calls, querulous, plaintive and I thought, pathetic. Yet, despite the darkness and cold and rain and uncharted space through which they flew, I knew the birds were not afraid. Only my concern for them led me to imagine that they were afraid and to detect a trace of alarm in their notes. Frequently the louder call of some waterfowl, larger and stronger than the night flying warblers and other diminutives, came through the medley of the others.

From 7 o'clock until 11 o'clock I listened. There was no cessation of the flight; indeed, it seemed to increase as the night wore on. Two other flocks of geese went over. At midnight I was awakened by a veritable chorus of warbling birds. Actually they were half singing, not just calling or chirping. It was impossible to tell the particular kind, but I am sure there was a large number of them, flying in close formation. As to what effect the lights of the town had on the flight, I cannot say. My place of observation was well lighted with the electric street lights and is situated two blocks from the business section where there are stronger lights and many illuminated signs.

It would be difficult to exaggerate the number of migrants in that autumn flight. A large majority of the birds were small ones, judging from the slight volume of their individual voices. However, many big ones were a part of the feathered host—perhaps gulls, terns, bitterns, herons and others. The weather in Cornith that night was of the same general sort recorded at Memphis, 150 miles eastward. The temperature, rain and wind were practically the same over this long stretch of terrain. If this flight of migrants passed over this 150 mile line, in the same numbers that marked their passage here, then un-

told millions of birds, in one single stormy night, flew across West and Middle Tennessee, from their summer nesting grounds in the North to their winter abodes in far off southern lands.

The next night, October 24, was clear, cool and still. Again I went out to hear the birds, but there was no birds. The great flight had passed on with the autumn storm.

(BY HENRY O. TODD, MURFREESBORO, TENN.) On the night of October 23, I was outside at about seven o'clock and could hear very plainly the calling of migrating birds flying overhead. The weather was cloudy and misty and quite cool, the thermometer being about 51 degrees. There were hundreds of birds, in fact, the air seemed to be literally full of them. While the greater number of calls came from small species, still the occasional call of larger birds could be heard. Being in Murfreesboro at the time, I thought that the lights of the town had probably attracted them close to the ground. However, at about nine-thirty, after arriving at my home three miles out in the country, I noticed that the birds were still flying over and flying low. The next morning, while in a store in town, the proprietor showed me a White-throated Sparrow which had entered the place during the night· it was probably one of the low flying migrants. I heard these birds only on the night of October 23. On the morning of October 30, while in the mountains near Sparta with Mr. Ganier, we saw a flock of geese flying southward at a high altitude at about 10 A.M. A native who was with us, stated that he had seen a flock go over early in the morning and during the week previous, seven flocks of geese and two flocks of ducks. On or about October 30, my father saw two flocks of geese, one of 56 and one of 37, fly over his home near Murfreesboro. Geese, on their migrations, are often heard flying over during the night and seen flying during the day. Since they rarely ever alight at this time, one wonders how many hours they can fly without sleep, or food or rest.

(BY HARRY C. MONK, NASHVILLE, TENN.) October 23 here, was a misty, raw, wintry day, with rain. At 5 P.M., I visited the railway building chimney, at Ninth and Broad, where a few evenings before, thousands of Chimney Swifts had been roosting. The low overhanging clouds made it very dark and only about 25 of the birds were overhead. An adjacent chimney was giving out smoke (and heat) and the Swifts were dipping down into this and then rising again into the murky sky, perhaps to warm themselves before they dropped for the night into the unused chimney. This was the last time I saw Swifts, altho I checked this and other chimneys on succeeding days.

That night, between 9 and 10 P.M. I heard a notable migration of birds passing over my home. It was a raw murky night with a cold north wind blowing. I first heard the loud squawks of herons overhead—sounds which continued for many minutes at a time and evidently came from many individuals. They sounded exactly like the familiar cries of the Green Heron but were probably some other species as the date is far too late for the Green Heron in this region. I also heard two different flocks of Canada Geese, the first of the season. At the same time other call notes were constantly heard, but were so blurred by the wind, or by distance as to baffle identification. However, as I stood on the porch, peering up into the black clouds, the whole sky seemed alive with a hurrying throng of birds of many species, all calling in their various tongues, and punctuated with the explosive squawks of the herons.

On the next day I made a visit to Radnor Lake hoping to find many water birds, but saw only a very few, and concluded the flight heard during the night had passed over without stopping, or else had left very early in the morning, as Mr. Baker, the watchman, says they often do.

AT MEMPHIS: A letter from Franklin McCamey states that he was not "listening out" on the evening of October 23 but that his mother told him that

large low-flying flocks of wild geese waked her several times during the night, seeming to be almost in the yard by the nearness of their calls. Bert Powell reported to him that he heard many geese but did not notice other species. That he was able to distinguish the Blue and Snow Goose notes from those of the Canada Goose. On the next night only a few flocks were heard. The following Associated Press dispatch was sent out from Memphis under date of October 24. "The honking of low flying wild geese gave Memphis notice Wednesday night and early this morning that winter is near. One Memphian reported that a large flock flew overhead Wednesday night as he stood on a street corner and that it took at least five minutes for them to pass. A woman said she was unable to sleep for the noise. Reports from all sections of the city indicated that the geese were in full flight to the South."

The considerable distance between the several locations reported above, make it evident that an almost unbelievable number of birds were passing over Tennessee at the time. It would be of interest to have further reports from any other readers who may have heard the migration.—EDITOR.

BIRD STUDY AT PEABODY COLLEGE

DR. JESSE M. SHAVER

Elementary bird study is given in connection with a year course in Nature Study meeting three times per week (two two-hour periods and one one-hour period), mainly in the winter, spring and summer quarters. These courses are primarily for teachers who plan to teach in the elementary school. It is hoped to stimulate interest in science and especially in outdoor science so that every elementary teacher from Peabody will be anxious to include some outdoor studies in her grades. An average of one evening every two weeks is spent studying stars through a field glass with the object of learning to know the constellations, some of the more important facts about them, and some of the more interesting myths and legends associated with them. Much time in the fall is spent in learning to know trees and in elementary forestry. In the winter much time is spent on home and school gardening, especially in connection with the flower garden and landscape work. The recognition of trees in winter by twig and bud characteristics is stressed. Bird study begins in this quarter. The method used is that of accurate field notes on recognition characters, habits, and behavior, coupled with readings in standard bird books. The outline for the field notes is very similar to that described elsewhere. *Particular attention is paid to nesting habits and the behavior and care of the young. Migration is closely followed. Spring flowers and some study of insects complete the field work in Nature Study. Methods of teaching are briefly considered being based on the Virginia State Course of Study for Elementary Teachers and the publications of the Raleigh, North Carolina schools.

Occasionally an advanced one quarter course in Ornithology is given, meeting four times a week. Methods are very similar to those used in the elementary bird study in Nature Study but of a more advanced grade. The course is planned primarily for prospective high school teachers of biology and general science. It is so designed that high school science teachers from Peabody will be prepared to use their local environment in their teaching.

Sometimes, with the stimulation that such courses give students and the encouragement furnished Tennessee youngsters by the Tennessee Ornithological Society, graduate students with a background sufficient to prepare a master's thesis in Ornithology appear. So far nineteen students have prepared

*Shaver, Jesse M., Some considerations in Teaching a Bird Course. *The Nature-Study Review*, February, 1919, pp. 53-57.

theses of this type. It is thought that a list of these students, their thesis subjects, and their present teaching positions would be of interest to readers of *The Migrant*. Accordingly they are listed below.

1. Barry, Mary V. 1925. The Life History of the Cardinal. Published in part as follows: Jesse M. Shaver and Mrs Mary Barry Roberts, 1930. Some Nesting Habits of the Cardinal. *Jour. Tenn. Acad Sci.*, 5:157-170. Jesse M. Shaver and Mrs. Mary V. Roberts, 1933. A Brief Study of the Courtship of the Eastern Cardinal (*Richmondena cardinalis cardinalis* (Linnaeus)). *Jour. Tenn. Acad. Sci.*, 8:116-123. Miss Barry taught biology in the Illinois Normal University (Bloomington), resigning to become Mrs. Cecil Roberts, Clinton, Ky.

2. Bell, Glenn W. 1931. The Relation of Song to the Nesting Season of Birds. Unpublished. Mr. Bell is now Superintendent of the Lyerly High School, Lyerly, Ga.

3. Brasfield, Steven A. 1932. The Nesting Habits of the Wood Thrush. Unpublished. Mr. Brasfield is teacher of biology, Sunflower Junior College, Morehead, Miss.

4. Bridges, Harvey A. 1932. Temperature, Relative Humidity, and the Feeding Periods of Brooding Robins. Unpublished. Mr. Bridges is teacher of science, junior high school, Louisville, Ky.

5. Crook, Compton. 1933. The Birds of Peabody Campus. Published in part with additional material from the senior author, thus:

Jesse M. Shaver and Compton Crook, The Birds on the Campus of George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee. *Jour. Tenn. Acad. Sci.*, 9:278-287 (1934); 10:77-82 (1935). Prof. Crook is instructor in Natural Science, College of Education, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

6. Elliott, Paul R. 1931. The Relation of Temperature and Relative Humidity to the Ending of the Evening Song of Birds. Published as, Temperature and Relative Humidity in Relation to the Ending of the Evening Song of Birds. *Jour. Tenn. Acad. Sci.*, 7:204-213. Present position, teacher of biology, Kingsport High School, Kingsport, Tenn.

7. Erwin, W. G. 1933. Some Nesting Habits of the Brown Thrasher. Published in *Jour. Tenn. Acad. Sci.*, 10:179-204. Mr. Erwin is Superintendent of the Lake High School, Lake, Miss.

8. Evans, Beatrice. 1934. A Statistical Study of the Relation of Light to the Ending of the Evening Song of Birds. Unpublished. Miss Evans is teacher of Science, high school, Greenville, Ala.

9. Hieatt, Martha V. 1931. The Relation of Light to the Last Call of Birds. Unpublished. Miss Hieatt teaches at Danville, Ky.

10. Layne, Mabelle. 1931. Some Nesting Habits of the Catbird. Unpublished. Miss Layne is librarian at Paint Rock, Ky.

11. McCorkle, Eloise. 1926. Territory in Bird Life. Unpublished. Miss McCorkle is science critic teacher, Portage High School, Portage, Mich.

12. Oakes, James Clyde. 1933. A study of the Occurrence of Birds on Vanderbilt Campus. Unpublished. Mr. Oakes is in soil erosion work in Virginia.

13. Schultz, Helen H. 1930. Birds of the Cedar Glades of Middle Tennessee. Unpublished. Miss Schultz is teacher of biology, State Teachers College, Fredericksburg, Va.

14. Stawiarski, Victor. 1929. The Influence of Temperature and Relative Humidity on Bird Numbers. Unpublished. Mr. Stawiarski is Teacher of biology in a college in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

15. Tait, Blanche. 1930. The Evening Song of Birds in Relation to Light Intensity. Miss Tait is teacher of biology, Georgia State College for Women, Milledgeville, Ga.

16. Walker, Emily Barry. 1928. The Relation of Light to the Awakening

Song of Birds. Unpublished. Mrs. Walker is instructor in nature study, State Teachers College, Commerce, Texas.

17. Walker, Gladys O. 1929. The Relation of Temperature, Relative Humidity and Wind Velocity to the Evening Song of Birds. Partly treated statistically and published as follows: Jesse M. Shaver and Gladys Walker, 1930. A Preliminary Study of the Effects of Temperature on the Time of Ending of the Evening Song of the Mockingbird. *Auk*, 47:385-396. Miss Walker's present position is teacher of science, Clarksville High School, Clarksville, Tenn.

18. Walker, Ruby J. 1929. The Relation of Light to the Evening Song of Birds. Partly treated statistically and published thus: Jesse M. Shaver and Ruby J. Walker, 1931. A Preliminary Report on tne Influence of Light Intensity Upon the Time of Ending of the Evening Song of the Robin and the Mockingbird. *Wilson Bull.*, 43:9-18. Married to Henry A. Taggart, Baton Rouge, La.

19. West, Joe Young. 1932. Light Intensity and the Rhythm of the Robin's Evening Song. Unpublished. Mr. West is teacher of elementary science, State Teachers College, Radford, Va.

The above theses are in the Library of George Peabody College for Teachers. While this library is not open to the public, the members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society can, I feel sure, make arrangements to examine any of these theses with the library.

NASHVILLE, TENN., NOV., 1935.

LATE SUMMER NESTS AND NESTLINGS

BY AMELIA R. LASKEY

Although no thorough or systematic search and no regular field trips were made for July and August nests in 1935, my day book and banding records include considerable data on nests and nestlings during that period. Most of the 49 records came from areas about my home banding station and the Love Hill and Green Hills substations because those section were more thoroughly searched. Nearly all of the nests were built close to dwellings in this suburban section of southwest Nashville, roadside shrub plantings, numerous trees, and the natural thickets on vacant property furnishing splendid nesting sites. About 40% of them were discovered from the road, with the cooperation of Jack Calhoun. Three trips of two hours each were made by automobile, driving very slowly as we watched both sides of the road, stopping to investigate nests and following all adult birds seen with food in their beaks. A household stepladder was carried in the car to look into those not otherwise accessible. A number of the records were obtained in the gardens of neighbors. Doubtless two hours a week spent systematically covering this section, would have yielded at least twice as many late summer records and several additional species.

On August 8th, three tiny Quail chicks entered a sparrow trap. When the trap was approached to release them, as they were much too small to carry the proper size band, the banded male appeared. He gave pitiful distress calls and feigning injury, dragged himself a hundred feet across the lawn, disappearing in a clump of shrubbery. The chicks did not follow but scurried off in the grass in another direction. On the 23rd of August, a larger size chick struck a window of our home, pecked at the glass a few times, squatted on the outer sill some minutes while the parent gave coaxing calls from the front lawn and finally the youngster took wing and speedily reached cover

Doves this year were very scarce compared with the 1934 nesting season. On July 10th, two fledglings left a nest and on July 12th, one nest contained 2 very small nestlings.

A Flicker fed a youngster on the lawn July 13th. On July 10th, two Red-headed Woodpecker nests were located.

On the 12th, a Rough-winged Swallow nest contained 5 young, very heavily infested with ecto parasites.

July 4th and July 12th, two broods of Bewick Wren's were banded, of 4 and 3 birds respectively. Two Carolina Wrens, found in a nest built among ivy vines on a dwelling, were examined on July 8th; one apparently about a week old was then banded. Its nest-mate was very small, almost naked, appearing to be only two or three days old. The banded bird was trapped August 23rd, about 200 yards from the nest. A brood of 4 seven-day old Carolina Wrens were banded August 8th in their beautiful spherical nest built in a window box and composed almost exclusively of green mosses.

Twenty Mockingbird nests were found during July and August. Two were in process of construction but most of them contained young of various ages. Of the sixteen occupied nests examined, broods of three or clutches of three eggs predominated. Nine contained 3 each, four had 4 each, three had 2 each. Although several nests have contained sets of 5 eggs, my records show none of that number for late nests. The latest dates this year were on August 3rd, three nestlings almost ready to fly, and on August 6th, three about a week old. The latter nest was built in the top of a tall syringa bush, and was beautifully decorated on the outside with moss and interwoven with a spray of silvery artemesia. It was exposed to the sun and on those hot, dry days, when the official temperature reached 102 degrees, the faithful parent perched over the nest with wings extended to shield the nestlings from the terrific heat of mid-day. Of the 37 juvenile Mockingbirds banded from these nests, 6 individuals, representing 3 families, were caught later in my banding traps. The most interesting of these was a nestling banded July 13th at Love Hill substation and captured October 9th at the Green Hills substation two and a half miles south (air-line). Several of the broods examined were badly infested with ecto parasites but the only soiled nest and young among them apparently harbored none.

Of Catbirds, 3 nests were found as follows: July 7th, two or more fledged; July 18, 2 nestlings banded; July 23rd, 3 nestlings banded which remained in the nest a few days longer. Two of this latter brood were trapped at their nesting place August 30th and the third on September 19th. The nest of this brood contained a snake skin woven on the outside and was probably built by the same bird that was banded in 1934 which returned this spring. Last year two Catbird nests in our garden had snake skins woven into the outer basket.

Two July Brown Thrasher nests were found; one brooding 3 eggs July 10th, the other on July 16th with 3 young about a week old. These were banded and two of them were trapped nearby in late August. In mid-July, 5 young Robins were banded from three nests and on August 9th, a Robin was still carrying food to nestlings near the banding station. One Robin nest was artistically decorated on the rim and sides with bits of moss.

July 8th, two Bluebirds were banded from our garden nest box a few days before they were ready to leave. They were trapped in the same territory on October 25 and October 27. Their banded parents fluttered about with little cries and one parent dashed at me with considerable pugnacity when the band number was being read. The young were both males and had acquired adult plumage.

There were three Orchard Oriole nests located in July. On July 3rd, one brood fledged; on the 10th, one contained 4 about a day old; on the 12th, 3 were banded from the third of these widely separated nests. A unique empty double nest of an Orchard Oriole was seen a few yards from one of the foregoing nests. The twin baskets were both complete and built close to the trunk of a young tree on a low branch.

One Grackle nest was found July 1st at the top of a large maple tree and on the 24th, the banded female bird brought at least two young to the station.

On July 8th, a Cardinal was found brooding an undetermined number of eggs; on July 12th, a nest contained 3 fresh eggs, and on July 30th, 2 young were fledged elsewhere. July 11th, there were 4 five-day old Chipping Sparrows banded at a neighbors, one of which was trapped several times in late August at the banding station.

Field Sparrow broods were found on July 5th and July 8th. On July 16th a banding station resident was laying eggs, for before 6:30 A.M. that day she had entrapped herself and dropped her egg in the trap. This Field Sparrow had been banded as an immature in August, 1934, returning in the spring of 1935. The egg was smaller than the average size.

NASHVILLE, TENN., NOV. 15, 1935.

A SKETCH OF BUFORD A. MATHES, 1878-1935

By BRUCE P. TYLER

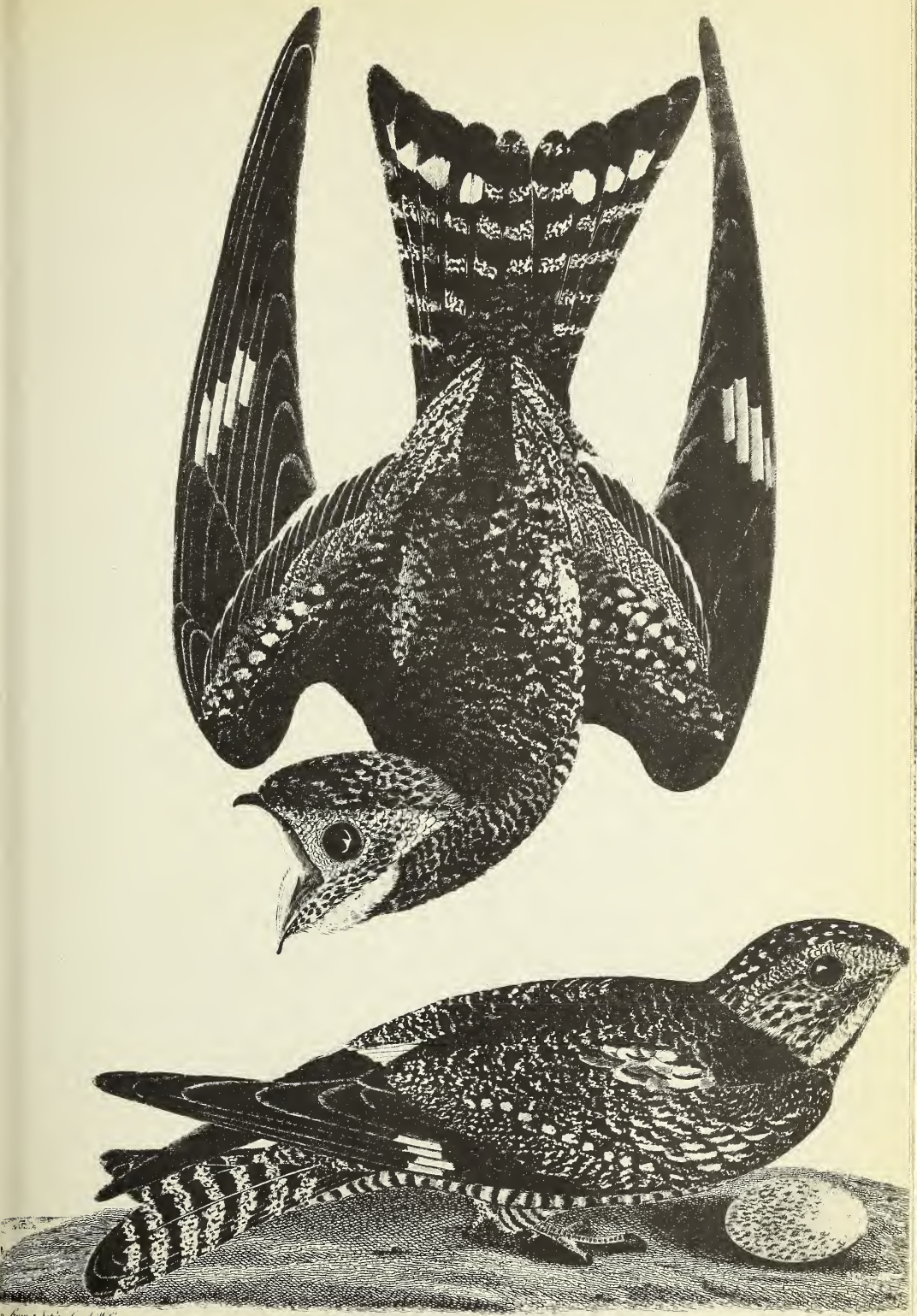
The cold March winds of 1878 brought to the dwellers in the hills and verdant valleys of Northeastern Tennessee a wee stranger boy—possibly he should not be called a stranger because his forbears, for several generations, had lived among these very hills and valleys, but for him all was new. With eager and able mind he struggled with the mysteries of life, as all babies do, and came in his youthful days to attend the Lusk School at Johnson City.

The three Rs were not his only troubles at prep school, for music was on the curriculum, perhaps the curriculum of the home rather than the school. At any rate, the prescribed practicing was not to his liking, but father Mathes had other ideas and the practicing continued under parental guidance until the youthful mind rebelled and Buford was missing from home to be discovered later as a cook on a canal boat on the Erie Canal—perhaps the tinkle of the bells on the tow mules reminded him of his truancy. Returning home, we find him installing a telephone from his study to the home of a boy friend some half mile distant. And it really worked.

From elementary school he went to the University of Tennessee for study in the technical division, majoring in Electrical Engineering. His first work of moment after graduation, and following some years in the Westinghouse shop at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was the installation of the electrical equipment at the National Soldiers' Home at Johnson City. Following its completion he continued in the service of the government, maintaining and operating the machinery for some dozen years.

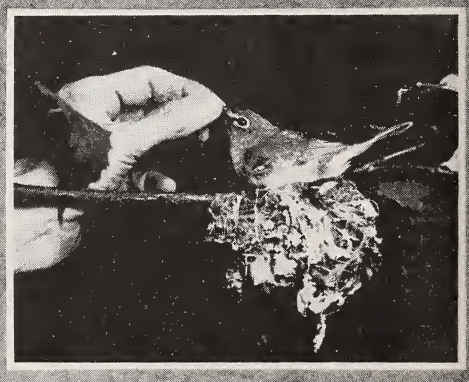
Though disobedient to parental wishes that he might travel in the footsteps of Euterpe, he was not disobedient to the promptings of Venus, and at the age of twenty-three married the comely Bessie Jones, of Abingdon, Virginia. To bless this union came three daughters. Thus with education and with abounding personality with family ties, with technical skill, and with love of nature, we find him turning to the study of birds. In this pursuit he camped in the mountains, canoed down the Watauga and the Holston Rivers to Kingsport, tramped the by-ways, the fields, and the woodlands with binoculars and camera, finding the real joy of the ornithologist in God's great out-of-doors. He was one of the earliest members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, having joined in March, 1916, shortly after he had learned of its founding. His work with the camera was outstanding and some examples of his photographic studies of bird life are reproduced in the pages which follow, for the pleasure of the readers of this journal.

Later in his years, perhaps because of lack of strength for strenuous hikes afield, and perhaps because of his greater love for electrical work, he



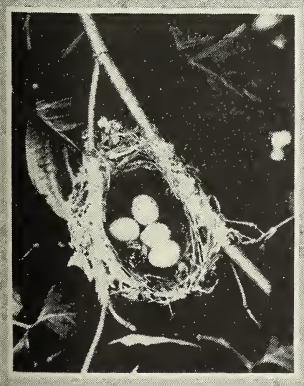
Engraved by J.

1. Night - Hawks 2. Females



Ruby-throated Hummingbird showing nest, very small young and young nearly ready to leave.

The Mountain Vireo is doubtless the most fearless of our native wild birds.



Brown Thrasher on nest in pine

Yellow-breasted Chat feeding it's young

White-eyed Vireo with egg of Cowbird

Wood Thrush nest and young

Young Wood Thrushes about 10 days old

White-eyed Vireo incubating it's eggs

Carolina Chickadee in nesting hole

A Wood Thrush on nest in oak

White-eyed Vireo

laid aside his ornithology (perhaps only temporarily) for the mysteries of the radio. On May 9, 1935, he was summoned to the great beyond, after a short life filled with active labors, well studded with the esthetic joys of communion with nature, with a well ordered home and everything to live for. Yet none may query God's goodness or wisdom, so his own and his friends bow in silent submission, knowing full well that the memories of congenial companionship and the inspiration of his life and work are our heritage.

JOHNSON CITY, TENN., Nov., 1935.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS

The first of the foregoing plates is a reproduction of a copper engraving of one of Alexander Wilson's paintings, prepared by "The Father of American Ornithology," to illustrate his splendid work published about 125 years ago. It represents a Nighthawk "booming" above his sitting mate.

On the two inside plates, are shown nine photos of bird life, taken by Mr. Buford Maths. These were mounted and furnished for reproduction by Mr. B. P. Tyler, to accompany his article above. The name of each picture is given at the bottom of the plates. It is a privilege to be able to present such a splendid group of pictures.

The last page of illustrations show 73 of those who attended the T. O. S. 20th Anniversary Fall Field Day, held on October 13, 1935, at Idlewild Wood near Nashville. The occasion was voted a splendid success, in fact the best meeting in the history of the Society. Perfect weather, a large attendance (about 100), carefully made arrangements, picturesque location and a generous attendance of members from a distance, made the meeting one to be long remembered. Those pictured are: 1, John Hay, Knoxville; 2, 3, G. R. Mayfield and son; 4, Miss Emilie Yunker, Louisville, Ky.; 5, 6, 7, 8, Dixon Merritt and sons and Miss Holloway, of Lebanon; 9, Miss Coffey, Nashville; 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, Miss Alice Smith, Frank McCamey, Ben B. Coffey, Mrs. Coffey, John Pond and Bert Powell, all of Memphis; 16, James Cortner; 17, Miss Georgie Reed; 18, W. P. Morrison, Dickson; 19, Mrs. Wm. P. Morgan, Columbia; 20, 21, E. D. and Mrs. Schreiber; 22, Miss Sallie Bateman; 23, Mrs. Sam H. Rogers, Pulaski; 24, 25, 26, 27, Prof. Geo. Davis, Dr. J. B. Black, R. J. Murphy, and H. O. Todd, all of Murfreesboro; 29, 30, 31, Misses Ogden, Knoxville; 32, Miss Mabel Slack, Louisville, Ky.; 33, Mrs. Hobson,Louisville, Ky.; 34, Harry Tracy; 35, 36, Wayland Hayes and daughter; 37, Miss Dessa Dreyer; 38, Miss Alma Hollinger; 39, Miss Margaret McIntyre; 40, B. F. Fields; 41, A. W. Ingersoll; 42, Mrs. Dixon Merritt, Lebanon; 43, Mrs. C. B. Tippens; 44, Miss Florence Harris; 45, Miss Jessie French; 46, J. A. Robins; 47, 48, Mr. and Mrs. John Caldwell; 49, Mrs. Wayland Hayes; 50, E. Williams; 51, S. A. Ogden, Knoxville; 52, 62, 63, 56, Mr. and Mrs. Masoncup and Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Bacon, of Madisonville, Ky.; 54, 55, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Burch, Knoxville; 57, Mrs. F. C. Laskey; 58, 59, Prof. J. M. Shaver and Son; 60, James Trent, Jr., Knoxville; 61, Miss Frances Church; 53, Mrs. Ingersoll; 64, 65, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Woodring; 66, Lewis Lyne; 67, Leo Rippy, Jr.; 68, Spiller Campbell; 69, H. S. Vaughn; 70, 71, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Ijams, Knoxville; 72, C. B. Tippens; 73, Mrs. G. R. Mayfield. Photo by A. F. Ganier. (Those not otherwise designated are from Nashville.)

INFORMATION WANTED: (1) The food habits of the Barn Owl are being studied by Mr. Arthur Stupka (Park Naturalist, Gatlinburg, Tenn.), who would be glad to receive pellets from nesting sites, particularly from East Tennessee. He also wishes to learn the location of nesting pairs.

BIRD BANDING BREVITIES, NO. 7

By Amelia R. Laskey

The fall banding season has been very interesting; trapping has been unusally successful during October when 324 birds were banded and numerous return records were obtained. The drouth in this section during late summer and through October doubtless was an influencing factor, for as soon as the rains started in November, the watering places at the station were deserted and trapping dropped to a low point in numbers. The season was comparable to the autumn of 1933, when similar conditions and corresponding station results were recorded. Both years Robins and Mockingbirds were banded in numbers and a creditable showing was made in the trapping of **Warblers,** although only seven species of the latter were banded in 1935 as compared with thirteen species in 1933. However, the total number of individuals in 1933 was only 74 while in 1935 it was 133 with 49 Maryland Yellowthroats heading the list (for the entire season); **Tennessee Warblers** were second with 43, this latter group all having been banded between September 8th and October 21, 1935. At times there were six or seven of them caught simultaneously in two or three cells of a Brenckle water-drip trap. A **Maryland Yellowthroat,** H17839, yielded a valuable return 3 record. Banded as an immature September 9, 1932, he was retaken August 12, 1933, June 16, 1934, and September 13, 1935. A good sight record of a rare visitor here was obtained on September 19th, when a **Redbreasted Nuthatch** spent sometime at the station, working down the tree trunks and coming within four feet of me. A **Catbird** banded in October remained nearby, repeating frequently, until November 8th. Among the winter residents, the first arrivals of each species were as follows: **White-throated Sparrow,** trapped September 29; **Lincoln's Sparrow,** October 8; **White-crowned Sparrow,** October 14; **Song Sparrow** and **Slate-colored Junco,** October 22. A number of these migrants from the North have already returned this fall for their second or third seasons. A **Gambel's Sparrow** in immature plumage was banded October 29th, being the fourth individual of this race captured at my station. Banding, return, and repeat dates, occur in October, November, January, February, and March. This, we may reasonably conclude, establishes the status of the Gambel's Sparrow as a regular winter resident in the Nashville area, although the first Tennessee record was my station capture in February, 1932. Possibly if field workers searched flocks of White-crowned Sparrows for individuals with yellowish instead of the usual reddish bills, it might result in sight records also of *Zonotrichia leucophrys Gambeli.* The only autumn returns of **White-throated Sparrows** at my stations occurred on October 30, and November 5, 1935. Both birds had been banded December 6, 1934; the proximity of their return dates suggests they are still traveling together.

Since the departure of Jack Calhoun in September for University of Virginia, he has obtained his banding permit from the Biological Survey and has established a station at his home there. Leo Rippy, a young bird student is now doing careful work at my West End substation on Love Hill which Jack established and where he did some outstanding work. Leo has already made a good start in trapping Cardinals, Towhees, and White-throated Sparrows.

Mr. Ben B. Coffey, of Memphis, has been actively banding this year, having placed many bands on young herons, etc., and later on Chimney Swifts. His report on the latter will appear in the next issue.

Nashville, Tenn., Nov., 1935.

THE ROUND TABLE

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: In addition to the two Least Bittern nests mentioned in the June Migrant we found three others. Subsequently eggs were found punctured or nest destroyed in all but one case. Banded four young Bitterns on July 14, 1935, having found this nest with five eggs on June 13, revisiting it June 22. This fall the writer failed to see either White Pelican or Wood Ibis. On Sept. 29, McCamey saw 12 large white birds at a distance swimming back and forth on a shallow lake; he believes these were Pelicans. The Little Blue Herons and American Egrets were common as usual and were roosting in a particular patch of low willows on the north shore of Mud Lake. Towards dusk they would come in from the immediate vicinity. On September 14 we saw 250 Egrets and 150 Little Blue Herons, and on the 22nd, 500 Egrets. On the 29th McCamey and party listed 30 Great Blue Herons, 2 adult Little Blue Herons, and 250 Egrets there and 140 Egrets near North Lake; Mrs. Coffey and Miss Alice Smith saw 75 other Egrets. On October 6, 250 Egrets remained, but when I visited the lake again on October 12 with Mr. Tyler, we found only three Egrets, the last of the season. On Sept. 22 I noted 300 Wood Ducks, strung out along the far (north) shore of Mud Lake; McCamey listed 130 a week later, and Mr. Tyler and I saw a few on October 12. Eight Blue-winged Teal were seen Sept 14, 30 on the 29th (McCamey) and 5 on November 28, along with 10 Green-winged Teal (McCamey and Pond). On the latter date 70 Mallards, 2 Black Duck, 6 Pintail, and 1 L. Scaup were noted and the next day Pond found 2 L. Scaup, 2 Wood Duck, and 1 Hooded Merganser. McCamey's list for Horn Lake Creek bottoms, North Lake, Mud Lake and the "barrow pits" on September 29 include, besides species mentioned above: Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Killdeer, 60; Spotted Sandpiper, 1; Least Sandpiper, 6; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 12; L. Yellowlegs, 1; G. Yellowlegs, 1; Pectoral Sandpiper, 14; Wilson's Snipe, 3; Canada Goose, 40; Double-crested Cormorant, 4 (on the 22nd I saw a flock of about 50 flying southward); Anhinga, 1; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 2 immatures; Green Heron, 1, and Osprey, 1. Among flocks of swallows were detected: Bank, 2; Barn, 1; Tree, 10; and Rough-winged, 100. On October 20 Mrs. Coffey, Miss Smith and I saw 200 to 300 Tree Swallows and a few Rough-wings. Just as we were leaving we drove directly under a flock of geese which passed silently over us at a height of about 50 feet; we counted 21 Blue Geese and 3 (L.) Snow Geese. On October 12 it was my pleasure to spend the afternoon at Horn Lake, the barrow pits and Mud Lake with Mr. Bruce P. Tyler, our interesting co-worker from Johnson City. Unfortunately, as noted above, where I had seen 250 Egrets the week before we found only 3 remaining. Wilson's Snipe were common and we listed 25. Various species of Blackbirds were coming in as usual to roost in the willows of both the big barrow pits formerly used and at the end of Mud Lake. We noted several late Warbler migrants. The morning of September 12, in a bush at our back porch I saw a male Wilson's Warbler, the second record for this area.—BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis.

NOTES FROM MT. PLEASANT: Not nearly so many Doves were shot in this section this fall as usual, hardly anyone getting the limit. I think this was due partly to the fact that there are not as many as usual and also because when the season opened they had largely left the grain fields and were eating weed seeds in pastures and on glady hillsides, where they were harder to get at. Still, I am in favor of the later season because it should result in an increase of Doves, and without plenty of them there

cannot be good shooting. On September 19, while in a wooded hollow hunting squirrels with a rifle, a Great Horned Owl lit on a stump about 20 yards from me and, with its head turned away, it remained there for some time, until at length it turned and saw me. Another one was near by and they were calling to each other, *hoo, hoo, hoo-hoo, hoor, hoo,* and flying about considerably, evidently hunting squirrels themselves, although it was only 4 P.M. On Sept. 24, I saw a pair of Black-crowned Night Herons near here. On Arrow Lake, October 21, the first day of the huntng season found a number of hunters and some ducks on hand. There were a good many Lesser Scaups and Ring-necks, a few Greenwinged Teals and a Cormorant. A Duck Hawk was noted flying over Ashwood. During the week of November 18-23, a good many Pipets were noted on land that was being planted in wheat.—DAN R. GRAY, Mt. Pleasant.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE BIRDS: The Christmas of 1934 was a happy one for the birds at 'Oaklee." On Christmas Eve, I put out large chunks of suet at all the feeding stations, also crushed walnuts, mixed grain, bits of fruit and—what many birds love best—cornbread crumbs. Our "spend-the-day" bird guests, for they not only feed but remain until nightfall, were the native Sparrows, Mockingbirds, Cardinals, Jays, Downy Woodpeckers, Flickers, etc. For several years we have also had a charming pair of Tufted Titmice and for two years an adorable pair of Carolina Chickadees. While coming to and from their feast they remind one of children at play and are most interesting to watch. We have a number of evergreens about the place and one, a large Norway spruce, seems to be a favorite dwelling place for birds the year round. It is most interesting to record the arrival of winter birds from the North and I usually hear them before I see them. A number of these species arrive at nearly the same date each year. The White-crowned Sparrows usually arrive early and stay late. I think our grounds would be a Paradise for birds were it not for stray cats. For a long time I have suspected our place is being made a dumping ground for unwanted cats and kittens from the nearby town. One day the children called excitedly to me to "come and look." What did I see but an old cat, followed by four kittens, walking leisurely toward the house from the front gate. I then did some calling myself—to George the yard man—to get a sack and hustle the happy family into it and then back to Columbia to a grocery store where they might be of some use hunting mice.—NANCY LEE MORGAN, Columbia.

RADNOR LAKE NOTES: Frequent visits to the Lake show the following dates of arrival for water birds there: October 13, Coot, Herring Gull and Pied-billed Grebe; October 20, Mallard, Black Duck and Ruddy Duck; October 27, Cormorant, Lesser Scaup and Ring-necked Ducks; November 3, Pintail Duck; November 11, Canvasback and Gadwall; November 17, Shoveler Duck, and November 20, 6 Common Loons. A Lesser Yellowlegs was recorded on October 27, November 3 and November 17. A Palm Warbler noted on October 27 represents a late date for this species. The owners of Radnor Lake have leased the hunting privileges to a group of local sportsmen, and it is regrettable that they have elected to shoot the ducks on what has formerly been a sanctuary. A few days before the hunting season opened on November 20, there were 315 waterfowl on the lake, and by December 1, these had dwindled to 90. In former years, there has been an increase rather than a decrease.—G. B. WOODRING, Nashville.

A DUCK HAWK NEAR KNOXVILLE: On October 13, at Lake Andrew Jackson near here, we had the pleasure of studying a Duck Hawk for more than an hour. The bird was in immature plumage and at times we were as close as 50 yards. A Robin, either bold or ignorant, attacked the falcon as it sat upon a dead limb but escaped with its life. It made three excursions out over the lake but was not successful in securing prey.—W. M. WALKER and GEORGE FOSTER, Knoxville.

EARED GREBE AT NASHVILLE: One of these birds was collected on the Cumberland River, a few miles below Nashville, on January 14, 1923, by Mr. Grover Cook. It was mounted and properly labeled by him and he gave the writer the data at the time. A few years later he sold his collection of birds, including this one, to the State Museum at Nashville. An attache, making new labels about five years ago, changed the label to "American Grebe" and its true identity was temporarily lost sight of. In December, 1934, Dr. H. C. Oberholser, while looking over the specimens with the writer, called his attention to the error. Since this species (*colymbus nigricollis californicus*) has not heretofore been included in the Tennessee list, it is now being placed on record. The Eared Grebe, which closely resembles our Horned Grebe, is a far-western species and there are very few records east of the Mississippi.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville.

THE ROCK DOVE or Common Blue Pigeon (*Columba livia livia*) is a native of Europe; it was domesticated long ago and was brought to America as a domesticated bird. In some sections it has gone back to its wild state and for that reason, the 1931 editon of the A. O. U. checklist has accorded it a place in the list of North American birds. When the writer prepared his list of the birds of the State in 1933 he did not include the Rock Dove because he knew of no places where it had naturalized in the State. Last summer, however, while inspecting the vast old rock quarry a few miles southwest of Franklin, he found that a number of these birds had taken up permanent residence there. They were nesting within cavernous recesses in the quarry face which is more than 100 feet high and several hundred feet long. Under the circumstances it is now proper to include this species in the Tennessee list.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville.

FALL NOTES, NASHVILLE: An Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Nuttallornis mesoleucus*) was added to the writer's collection on August 17, 1935, this being the first specimen and fourth record for the State. The bird, resembling a Kingbird and nearly as large, was perched on top of a dead tree in a wooded pasture. A previous record was made by the writer on August 29, 1915, in the same locality. The other two are summer records in the East Tennessee Mountains . . . . On August 18, at Indian Lake near the Cumberland River and 12 miles northeast of Nashville, two Bald Eagles were observed. One was mature, having tail and head entirely white. Not far away, a Marsh Hawk was seen and a Barn Owl's nest was visited . . . . On August 25, the Barn Swallow colony near Bellevue was inspected; only one Swallow was seen, but 109 nests were examined, all now being empty . . . . Chimney Swifts roosted in abundance as usual this fall, in a number of chimneys, the last being seen on October 23, by H. C. Monk . . . . Shorebirds were very scarce this fall; a few Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers were seen and several Pectorals on Donelson Pond, October 6 and 13 . . . . On October 13, the T. O. S. Field Day parties recorded 67 species of birds, the most interesting being a Short-billed Marsh Wren . . . . A Golden Eagle was shot about 12 miles south of Nashville on October 20; it died a few days later. Another was reported as having been trapped near Glencliff at about this time; its fate was not learned . . . . The last week in October, in company wth H. O. Todd, the writer explored the "Gulf" of Caney Fork in White County in search of Eagles, Duck Hawks and Ravens. Natives told us some of the latter were still seen each winter. Some likely eyries were found and will be revisited . . . . The 12 year old Cardinal at my home is still hale and hearty; rarely now does he leave the premises. . . . Robins and Grackles were apparently absent during November and Starlings have been quite scarce.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville.

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY held its annual Fall Field Day at Mammoth Cave National Park, October 18-20. With excellent facilities, fine weather and plenty of enthusiasm, the meeting was voted the best in their history. Papers were read at the evening meetings of Friday and Saturday. Saturday and the morning of Sunday were spent afield in the Park area and 52 species of birds were listed. Messrs. Merritt, Mayfield and Ganier, of the T. O. S., were in attendance. Plans looking toward a joint Fall meeting with the T. O. S., in 1936, were discussed and placed in the hands of a committee.

THE KENTUCKY WARBLER, the quarterly publication of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, Dr. Gordon Wilson, Editor, has been enlarged to eight pages per issue. The July issue contains the first installment of an annotated list of the birds of Kentucky, by Messrs. B. C. Bacon and Burt Monroe. This publication of our neighboring state should be of interest to readers of *The Migrant* and those who would receive it should write to Miss Mabel Slack, Secretary, K. O. S., 1004 Everett Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky.

MURFREESBORO CHAPTER ORGANIZED: On Friday, November 8, a group of five of our local bird students met and decided to organize a local chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society. The meeting was held at State Teachers College at eight P.M. Messrs. A. F. Ganier, G. R. Mayfield, H. S. Vaughn and J. A. Robins of Nashville, were our guests and gave us the benefit of their experience. In the discussion which followed, a number of bird problems were sugested which could be studied with interest. Professor George Davis of the College was elected president and the writer was elected secretary. Others present were Dr. James B. Black, Robert Murphy and George Cash. Dr. J. C. Waller, another local member, was unable to be present at this meeting.—HENRY O. TODD, Murfreesboro.

MEMPHIS CHAPTER: On November 9th, new officers were elected for the Memphis Chapter of the T. O. S. Clarence Eugene Moore, of West Tennessee Teachers' College, was elected president, Dabney Crump, vice-president, and Franklin McCamey, secretary-treasurer. On October 27, we had our annual fall field day, listing 41 species of birds, including two flocks of Canada Geese numbering 55 and 35 respectively. After lunch a few of us drove back through town to Lakeview, but rain prevented us from adding materially to the day's list. Regular meetings are being held at the Museum of Natural History and Art—B. B. C.

The Nashville Chapter will hold its first 1936 meeting on January 6 and every two weeks thereafter—January 6, 20, February 3, 17, March 3, 17, etc. The local Christmas Census will be taken on Sunday, December 22.

NECROLOGY: During 1935, the T. O. S. lost 4 of its members by death:

Mr. Leslie Cheek, of Nashville, died on October 10, aged 63. Mr. Cheek had been a valued member of the T. O. S. for some years and was a frequent attendant at meetings. Reelfoot Lake was his favorite recreation place, where fishing and the water birds held his chief interest. In the beautiful grounds of his estate many provisions were made for attracting native birds.

Miss Frances Sinclair died at her home at Nashville on November 9. She had been a member of the Society since 1931 and regularly attended Field Days and meetings. She will be missed particularly on these occasions.

Mr. Grover Cook, of Nashville, died on September 21, aged 38 years. Mr. Cook was a talented taxidermist, specializing in water birds, of which he secured a number of rare specimens. His collection has been acquired by the State Museum at the Capitol.

A biographic sketch of **Mr. Buford Mathes** will be found on another page.

THE MIGRANT

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"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough, it is not necessary to go beyond it."

EDITORIAL CHAT

The Editor sincerely wishes to make the pages of *The Migrant* interesting to all of its readers. The trend of the times is to write with accuracy yet without the technical "dryness" of a generation ago. Most of our members are interested in birds because they afford interesting study in an outdoor environment. Ornithology therefore, as we pursue it, is not a tedious science but takes the role of pleasant recreation and our pages shall try to reflect this viewpoint. Our contributions will endeavor to serve two major purposes; first to afford pleasant reading for all who are interested in birds, and, second, to place on permanent record, occurrences and facts about birds which may be referred to by the students of bird life in the years to come. We are actually writing and publishing a history of the birds of Tennessee, and when in time we have published enough of it in this serial form, a comprehensive volume on the birds of our State will be in order.

Members are urged to keep their files of *The Migrant* complete. An index is printed in the December issue each year for convenient reference, and we have in mind the publication of a complete index to date of all subjects and species of birds referred to. Finally, the Editor requests all of our members to send in articles and notes for publication. With your cooperation he will endeavor to make our little magazine even better during the coming year.

ILLUSTRATIONS: With the last issue of *The Migrant*, we began a feature which we hope to continue; the introduction of photographic illustrations. Among our members we have a number of expert photographers of bird life and the Editor hopes to present some of the best of their work during the coming year. The new litho-offset process is being used for the purpose and yields a soft, pleasing effect on non-gloss paper. This process also enables us to cover the entire 6x9-inch page with the illustration, thus producing a much enlarged picture. Our members are invited to send in prints of their best photos so that there may be many to select from.

"Know a workman by his tools," runs a famous old adage. How are your tools, fellow bird student? Are you acquiring a new book occasionally, and what about your field glasses, photographic equipment, notebooks, listing cards, etc., etc.? Birds will probably be your hobby always, so you had as well get "lifetime equipment" while you are about it.

The annual Christmas Census may be taken on any day between December 20 and January 1. Members all over the State are invited to cooperate by sending in their lists. The results will be published in our March issue.

INDEX TO THE MIGRANT

FOR 1935—VOLUME 6

No.		Page
1.	"Whisper Songs and Night Singing," by Mrs. F. C. Laskey	1
	"Spring Migration at Athens, Tennessee," compiled by A. F. Ganier	2
	"Loggerhead (Shrike) Notes," by Benj. R. Warriner	6
	"Annual Christmas Census, 1934, by T. O. S. Members	7
	"Bird Banding Brevities, No. 4," by Mrs. F. C. Laskey	10
	Reviews and Bibliography for 1934	11
	The Round Table: The Season at Memphis; Stilt Sandpiper near Memphis; Black-cr. Night Herons; American Rough-leg Hawk; Winter Notes Nashville; American Pipet Records; Tennessee Warbler in Winter; Radnor Lake Notes; Barn Owl Casualty; Woodcock near Knoxville; A Long-eared Owl; Red-headed Woodpecker in Winter; Life Lists; Meetings; Editorials, etc.	12-16
2.	"An April Visit to the Reelfoot Cranetowns," by Frank McCamey"	17
	"In Search of the Duck Hawk," by Bruce P. Tyler	18
	"Notes on Everyday Birds," by Jamie Ross Tippens	20
	"Goose Pond and Its Marsh Birds," by Albert F. Ganier	22
	"Bird Banding Brevities, No. 5," by Mrs. F. C. Laskey	24
	"Water Birds of East Tennessee," by James Trent, Jr.	25
	The Round Table: The Season at Memphis; A Piping Plover at Memphis; Notes from Corinth, Miss.; A Winter Herring Gull; Golden-winged Warbler; Nesting Notes from Murfreesboro; King Rail Nestings; Spring Notes, Nashville; Green Heron Nest Records; Radnor Lake Notes; The Brown Thrasher; White Pelican at Knoxville; Notes from Knoxville; Long-eared Owl Records; Spring Field Days, State Officers; Reelfoot Lake in 1875 (p. 21); Editorials	33-40
3.	"History of the Tennessee Ornithological Society," by A. F. Ganier, G. R. Mayfield, Dixon Merritt and A. C. Webb	41
	"A T. O. S. Annual Fall Field Day," by John Craig	44
	"A Collection of Birds from Cocke Co., Tenn.," by W. M. Walker	48
	"Early Reminiscences," by Dixon Merritt	50
	"August Notes from North Lake," by Franklin McCamey	51
	"Biographical Sketches of Founder Members," by D. M., R. A. W., and A. F. G.	53
	"Work of the T. O. S. in Publicity and Education," by Geo. R. Mayfield	55
	Photographs of Founders, Members and Field Day Groups	57-60
	"Bird Banding Brevities, No. 6," by Mrs. F. C. Laskey	61
	"Among Our Contributors" (biographic sketches of 32 members)	63
	"A List of T. O. S. Officers," by Harry C. Monk	67
	The Round Table: Large Flocks of Doves; Bell's Vireo at Memphis! A White Ibis near Memphis; Birds About a Farm Home; The Dove Hunting Season; Scarcity of Birds in Late Summer; Radnor Lake Notes; How a Cuckoo Ate a Caterpillar; A Trip to a Highland Marsh; Barn Owls, etc.; Notes from Murfreesboro; Golden Eagle in Clay County; Albino Red-tailed Hawk; September Census at Knoxville; Notes from N-E Tenn.; Boy Scouts and Bird Study; Editorials	66-76
4.	"Nocturnal Migration in Stormy Weather," a symposium by members	77
	"Bird Study at Peabody College,', by Jesse M. Shaver	80
	"Late Summer Nests and Nestlings," by Mrs. F. C. Laskey	82
	"A Sketch of Buford Mathes, 1878-1935,'. by Bruce P. Tyler	84
	Illustrations: Nighthawks by Wilson; photos, Mathes; T.O.S. Group	85-88
	"Bird Banding Brevities, No. 7," by Mrs. F. C. Laskey	90
	The Round Table: The Season at Memphis; Notes from Mt. Pleasant; Christmas with the Birds; Radnor Lake Notes; Duck Hawk at Knoxville; Eared Grebe at Nashville; The Rock Dove; Fall Notes, Nashville; Necrology; Chapter news, Editorial chat, etc.	91-96

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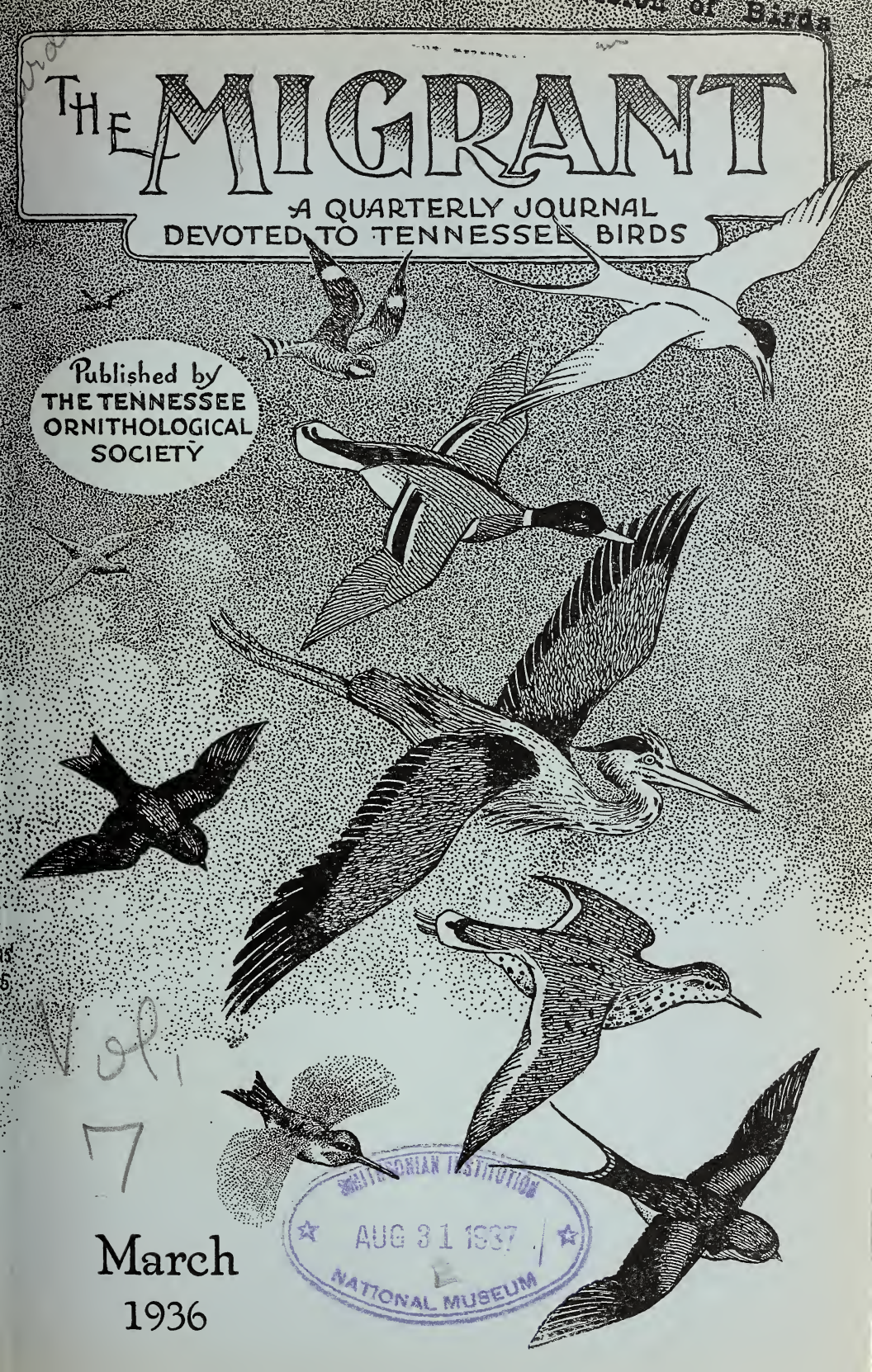

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THE MIGRANT

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SOMETHING ABOUT BIRDS NESTS AND EGGS

By Dr. H. S. Vaughn

The spring of the year is to many of us the most interesting period in which to study birds for at that season they are engaged in nesting and rearing their young. It should be the goal of every bird student to find and examine the nests of every species of bird that nests in his vicinity. Not only a single nest of each but as many as possible, in order that he may learn the variations in sites chosen, the structure and composition of the nests, the number and appearance of the eggs, the time of incubation, the length of time the young remain in the nests, the number of broods in a season, the range of nesting dates, etc., etc. This particular branch of ornithology is sometimes called oology and has many devotees. It is particularly attractive to the masculine sex because men have an inborn love of hunting and because it takes strength, endurance, agility and the ability to go into "wild and wooly" places, often in the face of danger, if one wishes to gain wide knowledge in this study.

A few general remarks on when, where and how to go to find nests will be given below to assist those who are not well practiced in the "knack" of finding them. When to go, depends on the species to be sought for if you would view fresh eggs in a nest of the Great Horned Owl, you would climb to his lofty eyrie around the 20th of January. For the nests of Goldfinches, you would have to wait until the last of July or even August. In the latter month, one may also find belated nests of the Cuckoos, Indigo Buntings, Field Sparrows, Towhees, etc. For the most part however the high tide of nesting for small birds is the last half of May. Where to go, depends on what species you would seek. Whether to the woods, the thickets, the marshes, the fields, or perhaps a combination of all. By experience, and by reading of that of others, you will soon know what to look for in each type of territory. You will likewise learn how to look, for there is much fine technique to be acquired in looking for and finding the nest of each species. It is the learning of this technique that makes bird's nesting a sport which requires great skill and careful application. Under the head of how to go, should be included the advice that old clothes or hiking togs be worn so that no briar patch, thorn thicket or quagmire will tempt a detour. When nests are found, the date and a description of each should be written down in a notebook and this should be supplemented later by notes on subsequent visits. In looking into nests, do not touch them and do not pull the branches over to you for your greater ease. Adjust your own position rather than that of the nest. You may not appreciate the very slight damage you have done but the bird will detect it at once and will very frequently desert the eggs. Ground nests should not be approached closer than a yard; dogs and other animals follow human trails and disaster may result.

The eggs of birds present great variation and aside from their biological interest, they are interesting objects for study. There are reasons for their differences and the solving of these reasons furnishes much food for study. In certain species there is an evident intent to employ camouflage, so that the markings of the eggs blend prefectly with their surroundings and make them difficult to see. Thus, the eggs of the Chuck-wills-widow blend with the fallen leaves on which they are deposited, the Horned Lark with the dead grasses of

late winter and the plovers with the pebbles and loose rocks on which they lie. Birds which build nests in holes or cavities have no need for camouflage so their eggs are usually white. It is probable that birds, such as the Crested Flycatcher, which lay well marked eggs in cavities, have not always nested in such places. In this connection, it will be recalled that Chimney Swifts, House Finches and Purple Martins have within only a few hundred years, entirely changed their nesting habits. Why it is that Doves lay pure white eggs in an unconcealed nest, is somewhat of a riddle. Grackles and Jays find and destroy many of their eggs and in time Doves may evolve the cavity nesting habit. Grackles are far more abundant now than in early times.

The thickness of egg shells does not vary with their size. Certain species lay eggs that are very fragile, notably the Mockingbird, Grackle, Meadowlark and Crow. Other species, such as the Bob-white and Kildeer, lay eggs which are relatively thick-shelled. Eggs of the Chimney Swift, which have to rest on a hard platform of twigs glued together, have not only a thick shell but one that is reinforced with a membranous lining that is far thicker and tougher than that of any small bird.

The shell texture of eggs vary considerably. For instance, the eggs of the Flicker and Pileated Woodpecker have a highly polished surface. Those of the Catbird, Kingfisher and others, have a decided gloss. Most eggs however have a dull surface, those of the Kildeer for instance being quite rough. Eggs of the Double-crested Cormorant have a coarse, white, chalky deposit over them which sometimes entirely obscures the pale blue of the shell proper.

In shape again there is great variability. The roundest eggs are those of the owls while the most pointed are those of the Kildeer and Bob-white. The former are relatively large for the size of the bird but their shape permits four of them to "pack" closely when points are all at the center of the nest. Between these extremes, there are all sorts of shapes, one of the most peculiar of which is that of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird whose eggs are flat-sided with both ends blunt. Those of the Nighthawks and Whip-poor-wills are also of this shape. Some seabirds, such as the Murres, deposit their eggs on the bare rock of ledges of cliffs and they would often roll off but for their shape. Being blunt at one end with flat sides converging to a "point", they merely roll around in a circle when disturbed.

The markings of many eggs often greatly enhance their beauty, for there may be spots and blotches and scrawls of rich shades of browns, purple and lavender, often arranged in a distinct wreath about the larger end. The pigments are applied to the surface of the egg, while within the oviduct, after it has been fully formed and shortly before it is laid. Of almost as much interest as pigmentation is the ground color of the shells. This may be pure white, cream, buff and all shades of blue and of green.

The student of bird's nesting learns to know the eggs of each species so well that he can identify them at once on sight and apart from the nest. This is because there are certain constant characteristics in the eggs of each species that he learns to recognize. Likewise he can identify any nest that he may find, even tho it may be empty. He can usually do this at a glance, tho sometimes it is necessary to examine the construction of the nest, the materials of which it is made and the way it is built in the branches which support it. It is a wonderful thing to contemplate, that a pair of young birds will build their first nest, without any lessons from others of their kind, exactly the same way as have their countless generations of ancestors. One wonders if humans would do the same.

In concluding this article I would like to say that while not advocating collecting as a fad, it is my opinion that if the conscientious student of birds nesting chooses to assemble a carefully prepared, representative study collection of the eggs of our native birds, it is a worthy enterprise and not to be condemned. Such a collection, comprising two or three sets of eggs of each species, accompanied by complete data on each nest involved, housed in glass-

covered drawers, properly labeled, and made available for the study and enjoyment of other students of bird life, is an enduring thing and justifies the contribution that the birds themselves have made to it. A drawer of well prepared eggs, neatly arranged on red cedar sawdust, is indeed a thing of beauty. The collecting of such specimens is now regulated by law and permits for so doing are issued by the Federal Government only to those who are mature and who have received the endorsement of well known ornithologists. So strict are the conditions imposed that there are not more than half a dozen active collectors in Tennessee at the present time. The sum total of their annual "take" amounts to less than the toll taken by a few of the many thousand stray cats abroad in the land. The study of birds nesting need not necessarily involve forming a collection of eggs however, particularly if there is a good collection already available for reference. The written data that one can set down for each nest found and subsequently observed, is in itself well worth while.

When those who form collections of eggs find a set they need to fill a gap in their series, they proceed thus. After writing up all data, they remove the eggs one at a time, wrap them in strips of cotton and pack in a substantial box. These are later prepared by making a small hole in one side with a special drill. By blowing into this hole with a blowpipe, the contents are entirely removed and the shell is rinsed inside and out with water. When dry, they are marked with small neat figures so that the eggs of each set may always be distinguished from others. They are then placed in the cabinet where they will last an indefinite time without any deterioration. Birds quite often lose their eggs thru natural causes, or to predators, and will build anew and replace them within a short time. The advanced collector will take probably less than a dozen sets in a season.

NASHVILLE, TENN., February, 1936.

NOTE: To illustrate Dr. Vaughn's article, four pages of illustrations have been prepared and are reproduced on pages 13 to 16. The first plate shows twenty typical eggs of well known Tennessee birds. The specimens are shown double the actual size in order to more clearly bring out the types of markings. They are: No. 1—Brown Thrasher, uniformly covered with fine specks; 2—Chimney Swift, elongated shape and white; 3—Carolina Wren, speckled with reddish brown; 4—Cardinal, spots and specks of greys and browns; 5—Crested Flycatcher, thickly "penciled" with chocolate lines; 6—Cerulean Warbler, wreathed; 7—Orchard Oriole, spots and scrawls of blackish; 8—Barn Swallow, small spots all over; 9—Wood Pewee, rich browns and lilacs on creamy background; 10—Ruby-throated Hummer, smallest egg and pure white; 11—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, next smallest egg; 12—Red-eyed Vireo, black dots on white shell; 13—Catbird, dark greenish-blue unspotted; 14—Long-billed Marsh Wren, shell entirely covered with brown markings; 15—Carolina Chickadee, wreath of brick-red; 16—Prairie Horned Lark, shell entirely covered with gray markings; 17—Kingbird, splashes of chocolate brown on creamy shell; 18—Lark Sparrow; 19—Baltimore Oriole and 20—Red-winged Blackbird. The last three show the irregular lines and markings which seem as tho done with a pen. On the second (double) plate, reproduced actual size, number 21 is Great Blue Heron; 22—Green Heron; 23—Black Vulture; 24—Double-crested Cormorant; 25—Least Bittern; 26—American Bittern (buff); 27—Coot; 28 and 29—Downy and Pileated Woodpecker (our largest and smallest); 30—a set of Kildeer; 31—King Rail; 32—Spotted Sandpiper; 33—Bob-white; 34 and 35—Great Horned and Screech Owls (our largest and smallest); 36—Bald Eagle; 37—Dove; 38—Chuck-wills-widow; 39—Crow; 40—Osprey; 41 and 42—Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawks (our largest and smallest); 43—Sharp-shinned Hawk (handsomest of hawk eggs) and 44—Duck Hawk (entirely covered with reddish-brown markings). The last plate illustrates a beautifully constructed nest of the Yellow-throated Vireo. This nest is suspended from rather than resting on, the branches. It is composed of plant fibres, bark shreds, etc., and ornamented on the exterior with blue-gray lichens.—ED.

BIRD BANDING BREVITIES—NO. 8

BY AMELIA R. LASKEY

This winter has proven to be a very successful season for trapping Cardinals and it is hoped that the two hundred banded in the past three months will in time yield some information concerning their movements. In Belle Meade, at the home of Mrs. E. C. Tompkins, 82 were banded between November 22, 1935, and February 18, 1936; at the West End substation, Leo Rippy banded 48 during the same period; Spiller Campbell banded 36 in January at his home adjoining Peabody Campus. Each of the five stations operated yielded some very interesting return records totaling more than 25 individuals, 7 of which had been banded three years ago and 3 of them two years ago. A nestling banded last June in our garden was captured in December less than a mile away. Another fledgling banded in September was retaken also in December not quite two miles from its early home. — However some of the interesting old garden residents that were distinctively banded have disappeared during this record breaking cold winter with its frequent snows. Among them is B23487, the Cardinal that has nested in the garden at least three years. Her mate and the three color banded Mockingbirds that held territory about our home this winter are also gone. The fact that all disappeared during the moonlight nights when predators were also seen is significant. Another Mockingbird under observation at the Belle Meade substation is known to have fallen victim of a Screech Owl for the Tompkins family heard his cry of distress and rushed out in time to see him carried off by the owl from his roost at their living room window. Sparrow Hawks were very troublesome at all the stations this winter when the ground was frozen hard or snow covered. They found food scarce elsewhere and attempted to get birds in and about the traps. — Other tragedies occurred among Field Sparrows and Juncos that were due to a habit peculiar to cold weather. They gorge on seeds until they are so full they are unable to close the beak and sometimes then inhale a seed which lodges in the trachea, causing instant death by strangulation. The gullets of the three victims were examined and it was found those of the Juncos contained more than 450 millet seeds each. The Field Sparrow was an old bird spending her fourth winter at the station. From her gullet, throat, and mouth, 636 hulled millet seeds were taken which when dry weighed 1 gram. The bird weighed 16.4 grams and was very fat. She had been accustomed to feeding in the traps as her record shows she had been removed from them 44 times. — A Robin banded in September 1931 as an adult was again captured in November 1935 in a Verbail pole trap. These traps, made for Hawks, Owls, and animals, are so constructed that even a small bird may be captured without the slightest injury. — Some old Towhees were retaken during the snowy periods, 3 that were banded three years ago and 4 that were banded two years ago. — A Lincoln's Sparrow was trapped on December 22nd which is the first winter record of this species in the Nashville area, the only other late date being November 30, 1934, when Jack Calhoun collected one that he found in a flock of Field Sparrows. — A Tree Sparrow was banded at my home station on January 21, 1936. — An interesting experience was the banding of my first Golden Eagle on February 4th. The immature bird had been captured the previous day by a resident of Watertown, Tenn., shipped to the State Game Department at Nashville, and then forwarded to Gatlinburg to be released in Smoky Mountains National Park. The Eagle proved to be very docile and quiet. His head was covered with a dark cloth as he was held by Mr. John Caldwell while the band was fastened about the tarsus, which in this species is entirely covered to the toes with feathers.

NASHVILLE, TENN., Feb. 22, 1936.

A FEATHERED SPORTSMAN

By Wm. M. Walker, Jr.

The term "Sportsman" has been arbitrarily taken over by man, who, having equipped himself with a gun and hunting license, goes forth to slay what the law allows. By an odd psychological twist, perhaps prompted by human ego, he at once proceeds to characterize the birds of prey as "vermin", because these raptores are afield, at times, for game on their own account. The hawks however, having been "native sons" from time immemorial, would doubtless have better grounds to speak disparagingly of sportsmen as "vermin" were they able and unkind enough to air their views. In the last issue of *The Migrant*, the writer mentioned having observed a Duck Hawk on October 13, on Lake Andrew Jackson near Knoxville. In response to a request from the Editor, I am giving below some further details of the falcon's method of hunting.

On Sunday, October 13, George Foster, Mrs. Walker and the writer drove to the Lake to see if any ducks were present, and as usual, we were not disappointed although our find was not a water bird. We were standing by the south-side boat landing when George espied the bird flying low over the water at the west end of the lake. Before I had seen the falcon he had identified it as the Duck Hawk. Our luck continued, for the bird alighted in an oak tree on the lake shore about one hundred yards from where we were standing. Our original identification had been on flight pattern and size; now we were able to see the black hood and "mustache". Further examination revealed that the breast was streaked with brown, and because of the size of this bird we concluded our visitor was an immature female.

The hawk remained perched in the tree for about fifteen minutes. Frequently it turned its head to watch some bird flying by, and for a while it watched with true hawk-like interest a flock of thirty-five or forty Killdeer. Several times a lone Robin scolded loudly from a near-by pine and two or three times it dived at the hawk as if trying to drive it away. But the latter was only mildly interested; it employed neither a defense nor an offense against the Robin. Two Jays came to investigate but returned swiftly and silently to the thicket from which they had appeared.

The lake territory had returned to normal as far as the bird-life was concerned, when suddenly the hawk with partially opened wings began a long slanting dive towards the group of Killdeers that were on a low-water promontory. The Killdeers took to the air about the same time the hawk left its perch. The birds flew east, the hawk north, but the latter made no effort to strike as it flew low over the group. The hawk, after crossing the lake, followed the north shore until it was above the fringe of willows at the upper or west end of the lake. I was watching the bird thru my glasses when suddenly it dived and for an instant two birds were in the field of view, but when the hawk began to climb again I decided to watch the drama without the glasses. The excited "rattle" of the Kingfisher identified the proposed victim. The Kingfisher lost altitude during the next attack as the Duck Hawk struck once going down and once again as it climbed effortlessly into the air. I decided to have "a ringside seat" for the third attack so up went the glasses and there was the Kingfisher about three feet above the lake surface and flying as rapidly as possible toward a cedar thicket. Suddenly it made a quick dart to one side then to the other and finally hit the surface of the lake to churn the water with three or four rapid wing-beats. The hawk, pursuing relentlessly, after matching each twist and turn, failed by inches to clutch the Kingfisher as it lay on the water. The intended victim escaped to the thicket while the attacked returned to the same tree it had left a couple of minutes earlier.

We walked on off—passing in the open and within sixty yards of the hawk as it sat in the oak. Later we observed it chasing the Killdeers and again,

perhaps an hour after the first performance, we saw a Starling playing the leading part in the game of sky-tag. However we were too far away to see the last of the chase. The falcon was probably not very hungry else would have attacked with more determination and success. The Duck Hawk has been recorded at this lake twice prior to 1935, in each case some several years ago.

KNOXVILLE, TENN., Dec. 1935.

ARRIVAL OF SPRING MIGRANTS AT NASHVILLE

BY ALBERT F. GANIER

One of the most evident and audible signs of the arrival of spring is the return of the birds from their winter homes in southern lands. They seem glad to be back again and students of birdlife are equally glad to welcome them and to record the coming of new arrivals from day to day. Most of these birds are in song, while hunger from long flights and damp chilly nights makes them active among the half clad trees where they may be readily studied. Each year as we record the first arrivals, there arises the question, "how does this date compare with the previous earliest and the average?" To meet this question, the following data has been compiled. These records are for the Nashville area and cover twenty years of observation on the fifty best known of the spring arrivals. Following the name of each species is the average date of first arrival. This average is computed from those which are shown in the parenthesis following and which represent the twelve earliest dates of arrival that have been recorded since 1915. However, certain of these dates, those printed in italics, are so "out of line" that they have not been used in computing the average given. For the convenience of beginners, the species are listed alphabetically instead of in the A. O. U. order.

The records are chiefly from the notes of G. R. Mayfield, H. C. Monk and A. F. Ganier; the author wishes to acknowledge with thanks the assistance of Messrs. Mayfield and Monk in making their records readily available. Included also are a few other records, taken from the minutes of T. O. S. meetings, and made by Mrs. Laskey, Miss Hollinger, Messrs. Calhoun, Crook, Sharp, Shaver, Vaughn and Walker. The securing of these arrival dates involved an immense amount of field work, the data having been taken off bird list cards made on many hundred trips afield. For those who would wish other migration data from this locality, reference is made to "Bird Migration at Nashville" by H. C. Monk, *Journal, Tenn. Acad. of Science*, 1929, v. 4, pp 65-77, and, for the eastern part of the State, to "Spring Migration at Athens, Tenn." by A. F. Ganier, in *The Migrant*, 1935, v. 6, pp 2-5.

BOB-O-LINK—April 27. (Apr 19-22-25-26-26-27-28-29-29-29-May 1-4)*

BUNTING. INDIGO—April 17. (Apr 14-15-16-16-17-18-18-19-19-19-19-20)

CATBIRD—April 16. (Apr 14-14-14-16-16-16-16-17-17-18-18-19)

CHAT. YELLOW-BR.—April 21. (Apr 16-17-18-19-21-22-22-22-22-23-23-24)

CHUCK-WILLS-WIDOW—April 15. (Apr. *1*-9-12-16-17-17-20)

DICKCISSEL—May 3. (Apr 28-29-May 1-1-2-3-4-5-5-6-7-7)

FLYCATCHER. ACADIAN—April 30. (Apr 15-20-23-24-25-26-26-26-May 1-2-3-4)

FLYCATCHER. CRESTED—April 15. (Apr 10-10-12-14-15-15-16-16-16-17-17-18)

GNATCATCHER. BLUE-GRAY—March 25. (Mar *12-15*-20-20-21-22-23-24-26-27-28-29-29)

GROSBEAK. ROSE-BREAST—April 22. (Apr 18-18-19-20-21-22-23-23-24-24-25-25)*

HERON. GREEN—April 7. (Mar *25*-30-31-Apr 3-6-6-7-8-9-9-9-12-12)

HUMMINGBIRD. RUBY-THR—April 17. (Apr 11-13-14-15-15-16-17-18-19-19-19-21)

KINGBIRD—April 16. (Apr 13-14-14-15-16-17-17-17-18-18-19-19)
MARTIN. PURPLE—March 27. (Mar *17*-21-22-22-23-23-25-27-29-31-Apr 1-2-4)
NIGHTHAWK—April 20. (Apr *8*-16-17-18-19-20-21-21-22-23-23)
ORIOLE. BALTIMORE—April 14. (Apr 8-10-12-13-14-15-16-16-16-16-16)
ORIOLE. ORCHARD—April 15. (Apr 10-11-13-13-16-16-16-17-17-17-17-18)
OVENBIRD—April 16. (Apr *1*-10-13-14-16-16-16-16-17-18-20-20-20)
PEWEE. WOOD—April 25. (Apr 20-23-23-23-24-24-25-27-27-27-28-29)
SANDPIPER. SOLITARY—April 11. (Apr 4-7-8-10-10-12-13-13-14-14-15-16)*
SANDPIPER. SPOTTED—April 21. (Apr 10-14-16-19-20-22-22-25-26-26-27-29)*
SPARROW. BACHMANS—March 28. (Mar *12-17*-22-24-28-29-29-31-Apr 1-1-4-5)
SPARROW. CHIPPING—March 9 (*Feb 21*-Mar 3-3-5-6-8-9-11-11-13-15-15)
SPARROW. GRASSHOPPER—April 9. (Mar *23*-30-31-31-Apr 5-8-11-12-15-15-19-20)
SPARROW. VESPER—March 14. (Mar 1-1-5-5-14-14-17-20-21-21-22-23)*
SWALLOW. BARN—April 12. (Apr 4-5-6-8-9-10-14-15-15-16-19-19)
SWALLOW. ROUGHWING—March 28. (Mar 17-20-20-24-25-31-31-Apr 1-1-2-3-4)
SWIFT. CHIMNEY—April 2. (Mar *25*-30-30-Apr 1-1-1-2-3-3-3-3-3)
TANAGER. SUMMER—April 15. (Apr 9-10-13-13-15-15-15-16-16-16-18-18)
TANAGER. SCARLET—April 17. (Apr *6*-13-15-16-17-17-17-18-18-19-19-20)
THRASHER. BROWN—March 4. (Feb. *14-14*-26-Mar 1-1-2-4-5-5-6-6-7-7-9)
THRUSH. OLIVE-BACKED—April 22 (Apr 16-17-18-20-20-22-22-22-23-25-27-27)*
THRUSH. WOOD—April 7. (Apr 3-5-5-6-7-7-7-9-9-9-10-10)
THRUSH. LA. WATER—March 22. (Mar 16-17-18-20-21-22-22-23-23-24-29-29)
VIREO. RED-EYED—April 14. (Apr *6-8*-10-10-12-12-13-15-15-15-16-17-17-17)
VIREO. WHITE-EYED—April 2. (Mar 31-31-31-Apr 1-2-2-2-3-3-3-4-5)
WARBLER. BLACKPOLL—April 27. (Apr *18*-25-25-25-26-26-27-27-27-28-28-29-29)*
WARBLER. BLACK-AND-WHITE—March 27. (Mar 18-20-22-24-27-27-29-29-30-30)
WARBLER. BLACKBURNIAN—April 21. (Apr *7*-17-17-18-21-25-26-27)*
WARBLER. BLACK-THR GREEN—April 5. (Mar *20-26*-30-31-Apr 3-4-7-7-7-8-9-10)*
WARBLER. CAPE MAY—April 25. (Apr 16-18-19-20-24-26-27-28-29-29-29-30)*
WARBLER. HOODED—April 12. (*Mar 31*-Apr 8-9-9-10-12-12-12-14-14-15-16-16)
WARBLER. KENTUCKY—April 17. (Apr 15-15-16-16-16-17-18-18-18-19-19-20)
WARBLER. MD YELLOWTHROAT—April 8. (Apr 6-6-6-7-7-7-8-9-9-9-10-11)
WARBLER. MAGNOLIA—May 2. (Apr *18-19*-28-29-30-May 1-1-4-4-4-5-5)*
WARBLER. REDSTART—April 20. (Apr *12-13*-17-18-19-19-19-20-20-21-21-23)
WARBLER. SYCAMORE—April 4. (Mar 31-31-Apr 2-2-3-4-5-6-8-8-9-9)
WARBLER. YELLOW—April 7. (Apr 4-4-5-5-6-6-7-7-9-9-9-10)
WARBLER. PROTHONOTARY—April 15. (Apr 5-9-11-15-15-16-16-20-21-22-22)
WARBLER. TENNESSEE—April 23. (Apr 21-21-21-22-23-23-24-24-24-25-25-25)*
WHIP-POOR-WILL—April 14. (Apr *1-4*-9-10-11-12-13-14-17-18-19-20)

* Species so noted, do not breed in the Nashville Area.

(*Notes*:—Where there is a widespread difference in the arrival dates shown, a careful lookout should be kept in future to record the species at dates earlier than the average given. Vesper Sparrows and Brown Thrashers sometimes occur in mid-winter. For Chuck-wills-widow and Blackpoll Warbler, there are other arrival dates recorded but so late that they obviously do not represent first arrivals.

NASHVILLE, TENN., February, 1936.

BREEDING BIRDS OF TENNESSEE:—According to the 1933 List, the total number of species and sub-species of birds nesting in the entire State is 176. Those nesting in East Tennessee only are 140 kinds, in Middle Tennessee only 122 kinds and in West Tennessee only 123 kinds. How many kinds of nests have you actually found in your locality?

THE HISTORY OF A MARTIN BOX

By Jamie Ross Tippens

I have always wanted a Martin "Box", but was afraid, one that I could build, would turn out to be one of those untidy, heavy headed things, drooling Sparrow nests from every doorway. So, in April 1934, I asked one of our more experienced members what proportions and details a successful Martin box should have. By following his instructions, and with the help of the yard man, I built a two story, four room cottage, with two rooms in the attic under the gables and porches for each floor. It was painted white, with green door frames, and a green roof, and a gay red chimney.

April 22.—While the first coat of paint was drying, a Bewick Wren came and joyously filled an attic room with sticks, perching on the chimney to sing every few minutes. Three days after, I put the final coat of paint on the box and removed the nest. The Wren was nearby all the time I was painting, and as soon as I put the box on a stool to dry, he started building again. He seemed undisturbed by the wet paint and its strong odor. This nest was built in the other attic room and there I let it remain; I also left the box on the stool, preferring an actual Wren to a problematical Martin. For about two weeks the little builder was about the box singing constantly, when a female Wren came and accepted the nest he had made ready and in due time, six eggs were laid.

June 7.—I noticed the Wrens carrying Food into the nest, which seemed full of young. I was away from home when the young birds left the nest and believe all the eggs hatched as I found nothing but mites in the nest when I removed it from the box in August.

August 2.—The Martin box was thoroughly cleaned and fastened to a tall pole in an open space in my garden. The rest of the summer a Mockingbird used its little red chimney as his concert porch. When cold weather came and thru the winter, a Flicker used one of the lower rooms as a sleeping place. He seemed to enjoy the noise he made, drumming on the walls inside. I was afraid he would ruin the box, but he looked so contented peering out through the door, I didn't disturb him. In the early spring, 1935, some English Sparrows took possession of both attic rooms. I tried to drive them away by throwing clods of dirt at them. My aim was so poor, however, that they kept right on with their nest building, much to my disgust.

April 24, 1935—While working among my flowers under the Martin box, I heard some loud clear bird notes which sounded like a Crested Flycatcher whose voice had been cultivated. The notes were right over my head and I could scarcely believe my eyes. There, really was a Purple Martin, walking up and down the porch, peering into the rooms, and having a lot to say about everything. That sight gave me a real thrill. In a little while he flew away, but several hours later four Martins came and examined the box; all were males.

April 25.—One male and one female Martin visited the box, took in the situation from every angle, the female constantly examining the attic rooms, already occupied by Sparrows. She seemed as disgusted with the Sparrows as I was, and flew away. The male staid for a few minutes on the porch, calling, then followed her. April 26.—Same performance as the day before. The female seems to refuse to accept a home infested with Sparrows. I heard young Sparrows chirping but the adult birds have made no effort to drive the Martins away. April 29.—Martin back again after a two day absence; two females and one male, all very noisy.

May 1.—A pair of Martins seem to have claimed the box, Sparrows and all. I failed to make a note of the date I saw the Martins carrying straws into their new home but all through May and June, I found the keenest pleasure in watching these exquisite birds. Their graceful flight is truly poetry of

motion. It was breath taking, to see them come hurtling in with half closed wings, swerve up to the porch and land as lightly as a feather.

June 22.—My Martins are feeding three young, in the lower left room. Three little heads appear in the door way quite often. Two extra females present for the last three days; male tries constantly to induce them to examine the upper rooms. He goes inside and sings loudly, peers out to see if they are noticing, then repeats the performance many times. He is determined in keeping them away from the lower rooms however. July 1.—Young Martins still in their nest room—two heads now fill the door way to capacity. Four extra females are here all day but they do not roost in the Martin box at night.

July 2.—Sparrows are rearing another brood in the attic. This morning a Martin and a Sparrow had a fearful fight; while they were fighting, a Mockingbird joined the fray, and all three fell to the ground in a whirling mass. In a few minutes the Martin flew up to his porch to preen himself. The Mockingbird and Sparrow came up at the same time—the former flew to a rose vine nearby, but the Sparrow perched himself squarely under the Martin box with his beak full of feathers. Later, one young Martin ventured out on the porch; after looking about with seeming astonishment at the outside world, it scrambled hurriedly into the next room, where it remained most of the day. Late afternoon July 2.—Fifteen Martins flying about the box, all calling excitedly. Only two are adult males.

July 4th.—Young Martins left the box this morning at about six-thirty; sailing out, without any preliminary efforts whatsoever. Parent birds flew off with them; later in the day I saw the three young perched on some telephone wires several hundred feet away. The parent birds would not allow them to enter the box until roosting time. A flock of Sparrows tried to take possession of the box, as soon as the young Martins were out. We discouraged them by shooting five.

July 5th.—Martins litterally swarming about the box, all very noisy. They were entering the rooms at will until late afternoon, when they all flew close and hung in the air a second, but none would alight. In a few minutes the male parent came, walking up and down the porch calling.

The three young that were perched on a nearby wire came in then and entered the upper rooms. The male was kept very busy driving away all strangers. The female came in, fed one of the young and went into a lower room. The male remained on the porch, swooping out at any approaching Martin. He kept this up until dark, then flipped inside; his day's work done.

July 6th.—At roosting time the same program was carried out, as on the previous day, the only difference being, that the strangers—I counted 20 of them—were discouraged sooner. The adult pair cruised about for a short time, coming in at intervals to feed the young. At 7:30 they went to roost. This performance was repeated for several days—fewer strangers each time. By the middle of August all the Martins had gone and I am curious to know where they went and what they do, until the nesting season comes again.

NASHVILLE, TENN.

SOME OBSERVATIONS AT A FEEDING STATION

BY CYNTHIA C. COUNCE, M.D.

A peculiar thrill flashes over me every time I see the Hermit thrust eating at my bird-table, and I am wondering how many bird-lovers can persuade the little "swamp angel" to come and eat within two feet of their door-steps.

The feeding stations on the Sanitorium grounds (near Memphis) are varied and of many styles, yet it is plainly demonstrated that our Southern birds prefer eating on slabs and boards, or, better still, on the gravel driveway around the house. Particularly do the Juncos, White-throated Sparrows, Brown Thrashers, Mockingbirds, Towhees and Hermit Thrushes seem to prefer it.

An outside window shelf that contains a large bowl of crushed walnuts is claimed by a pair of Tufted Titmice. This they guard very jealously until the Cardinals come. The pair of Titmice are early morning visitors and most gracious of all birds that come to my feeding shelf. They never fail to peep into my room with a joyful note and sometimes they will stretch their necks and chant out a number of notes, as if they are asking me something. One Titmouse wears a band on his leg, and the other one is a cripple, one foot entirely gone. The Titmice are very interesting. They show personality and make good sports. They are very trusting in their makeup. I have seen them sing on the moulding in my room, and they will eat black walnut kernels out of your hand immediately after being captured. When clasped in your hand, with toes between your fingers, they will turn at once on your fingernails, woodpecker fashion. They appear fearless, possessing an independent air, while other birds are often overcome with fear and refuse to eat at first.

An unusual feature here is that there are no English Sparrows on the grounds for on those occasions when their harsh, discordant notes are heard, they are immediately made the target of a 22 rifle and are not slow to take the hint that they are not welcome.

The bird cafeteria is supplied with cornbread crumbs (in abundance), cracklings, chops, grits and other grains. With plenty of food, water and protection, we manage to have 30 to 40 Juncos, 50 to 60 White-throated Sparrows, Field Sparrows, Bluejays, Towhees, Cardinals, Brown Thrashers, Mockingbirds, Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Wrens and Grackles. Most of these birds are enrolled as "regular boarders."

LYNNHURST SANITORIUM, OAKVILLE, TENN.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CENSUS

BY OUR MEMBERS

Our sixth state-wide census of winter birds is given in the table below and we include also, two points in North Mississippi. The total of the Tennessee lists show 88 species and this may be compared with the four preceding years when 88, 90, 87 and 77 species were listed respectively. An unusually cold December was believed to have been responsible for the Northern Horned Lark and Tree Sparrows, more than the usual numbers of Purple Finches, Fox Sparrows and Juncos and the unusual scarcity of Robins, Grackles and Waxwings. Although not so indicated by these lists, Doves have also been scarcer this winter. This census, combined with previous ones, gives a good cross-section of mid-winter bird life in the State. Most of the lists were made this year on very cold, snowy days and some are not as complete as if good weather had prevailed. The Memphis list of 70 species breaks, by 2, all previous records.

	Memphis Dec. 22	Lula Lake, Miss. Dec. 24	Corinth, Miss Dec. 30	Covington Dec. 25	Paris Dec. 25	Nashville Dec. 27	White Bluff Jan. 5	Murfreesboro Dec. 29	Knoxville Dec. 22	Gt. Smokies Park Dec. 22	Johnson City Dec. 25
Number of species	70	63	31	30	35	59	40	40	46	39	36
Number of individuals	8112	3913	1015	461	367	3330	840	463	2125	1512	594
Number of observers	19	6	1	1	2	17	5	4	5	2	1
Horned Grebe	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pied-billed Grebe	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Double-cr. Cormorant	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Great Blue Heron	1	6	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Canada Goose	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Mallard	47	160	..	..	..	53	..	..	14	2	..
Black Duck	1	35	..	..	..	102	..	..	..	..	..
Gadwall	..	20	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Pintail	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Green-wing Teal	..	150	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Blue-wing Teal	78	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wood Duck	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ring-necked Duck	..	86	..	..	..	54	..	..	..	..	..
Canvasback	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lesser Scaup	15	200	..	..	..	31	..	..	..	..	..
Amer. Goldeneye	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Bufflehead	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Ruddy Duck	..	50	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hooded Merganser	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ducks-unident.	..	400	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Black Vulture	5	18	..	..	..	31	40	4	..	..	..
Turkey Vulture	5	9	..	2	3	..	15	..	..	..	5
Coopers Hawk	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..
Red-tailed Hawk	5	1	1	1	..	3	1	2	1	..	1
Red-shoulder Hawk	4	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Marsh Hawk	6	1	1	..	1	2	1	..	1	1	..
Sparrow Hawk	25	3	1	2	1	28	1	2	5	..	7
Bob-white	14	1	2	..	10	37	..	20	65	55	9
Coot	..	..	..	..	..	18	..	..	..	..	..
Killdeer	175	100	8	55	..	62	2	2	4	5	2
Wilsons Snipe	4	5	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..
Herring Gull	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ring-billed Gull	24	50	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mourning Dove	45	2	1	..	12	18	43	36	78	120	22
Screech Owl	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	2	..	..	3
Barred Owl	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..
Great Horned Owl	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	1	..
Kingfisher	8	2	..	..	..	5	2	..	1	3	..
Flicker	150	14	15	8	3	23	6	3	12	..	4
Pileated Woodpecker	1	1	1	..	2	4	4	2	7	8	2
Red-bel. Woodpecker	97	14	7	5	..	25	8	1	19	1	5
Red-head Woodpecker	61	2	..	..	2	4	..	..	2	..	..
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	35	..	..	1	1	2	1	..	1	..	..
Hairy Woodpecker	21	2	..	1	1	7	6	3	..	3	3
Downy Woodpecker	36	6	5	1	3	14	4	6	30	4	14
Phoebe	3	6	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	3	..
Northern Horned Lark*	..	..	..	..	..	250	..	..	..	..	..
Prairie Horned Lark*	..	..	..	8	..	285	12	30	150	..	8
Bluejay	500	19	14	30	28	31	10	8	52	2	36
Crow	35	28	2	9	6	276	27	100	330	25	72
Carolina Chickadee	92	4	..	5	14	101	15	8	80	30	..
Tufted Titmouse	154	3	2	..	2	33	18	4	64	15	48
White-br. Nuthatch	5	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	6	6	20
Red-breast Nuthatch	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	13	..
Brown Creeper	22	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3	1	..
Winter Wren	48	6	..	..	..	6	..	..	7	11	..
Bewicks Wren	1	..	..	4	..	7	1	4	1	..	..
Carolina Wren	146	8	4	1	9	26	7	10	27	18	28
Mockingbird	113	10	..	16	6	120	3	6	21	1	17
Brown Thrasher	28	..	10	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Robin	330	..	..	..	4	75	19	1	2	..	..
Hermit Thrush	55	2	..	..	..	7	1	2	2	28	..
Bluebird	80	4	9	..	8	25	18	23	18	26	14
Ruby-crown Kinglet	37	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	5	..
Golden-cr. Kinglet	180	7	..	1	1	..	1	2	26	60	4
American Pipet	15	390	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..

	Memphis Dec. 22	Lula Lake, Miss. Dec. 24	Corinth, Miss Dec. 30	Covington Dec. 25	Paris Dec. 25	Nashville Dec. 22	White Bluff Jan. 5	Murfreesboro Dec. 29	Knoxville Dec. 22	Gt. Smokies Park Dec. 22	Dec. 25 Johnson City
Cedar Waxwing	85	8	8	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Migrant Shrike	37	13	2	1	..	..	..	3	..	..	2
Starling	460	1560	..	1	47	465	100	18	458	250	60
Myrtle Warbler	128	39	..	2	..	45	1	..	11	..	24
Pine Warbler	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
English Sparrow	Com.	Few	..	Few	35	100	44	10	117	23	100
Meadow Lark	309	41	50	25	36	150	28	30	22	1	6
Redwing Blackbird	155	124	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Rusty Blackbird	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Bronzed Grackle	166	15	150	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..
Cowbird	73	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cardinal	500	46	8	30	11	315	39	36	56	90	32
Purple Finch	20	..	..	7	..	..	11	4	6	..	..
Goldfinch	164	5	4	3	..	23	23	2	20	26	20
Towhee	89	1	150	..	31	40	11	3	24	9	..
Savannah Sparrow	15	47	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Fox Sparrow	72	..	14	..	..	1	..	6	1	15	..
Vesper Sparrow	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
Slate-colored Junco	1170	28	200	175	26	437	231	25	160	*500	50
Field Sparrow	104	..	35	..	2	302	42	6	32	70	6
Tree Sparrow	..	..	1	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chipping Sparrow	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
White-cr. Sparrow	50	..	..	4	5	58	..	10	4	..	10
White-thr. Sparrow	1300	55	300	60	41	123	20	12	117	35	8
Swamp Sparrow	253	4	6	..	..	14	3	..	..	..	..
Lincoln's Sparrow	..	..	..	..	..	*1	..	..	..	..	*1
Song Sparrow	180	18	25	1	6	37	18	15	47	42	58

*Northern Horned Larks probably occurred at other points besides Nashville.

*Some of the Juncos listed in the Park may have been Carolina Juncos.

*Notes on the Lincoln's Sparrow will be found in "Bird Banding Brevities."

MEMPHIS: Dec. 22. 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Overcast. Wind gentle. Temp. 29-35. Two inch snow fell night before. A careful canvas of city suburbs and adjacent territory. Observers: Mr. and Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Miss Alice Smith, Dr. C. E. Moore, Messrs. Carney, Clayton, Embury, Fiedler, Hovis, Jackson, Leigh, McCain, McCamey, Moore, Jr., Pond, Powell, Turner, Wallace and Whittemore.

LULA LAKE (55 miles s-w of Memphis): Dec. 24. 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Overcast except part of p.m. Temp. 26-30. Including short stop at Beaverdam Lake also in boats on Moon Lake. 4 miles on foot, 20 by auto. Observers together. Observers: Messrs. Coffey, Carney, Hovis, Wm. Moore, Turner and Whittemore.

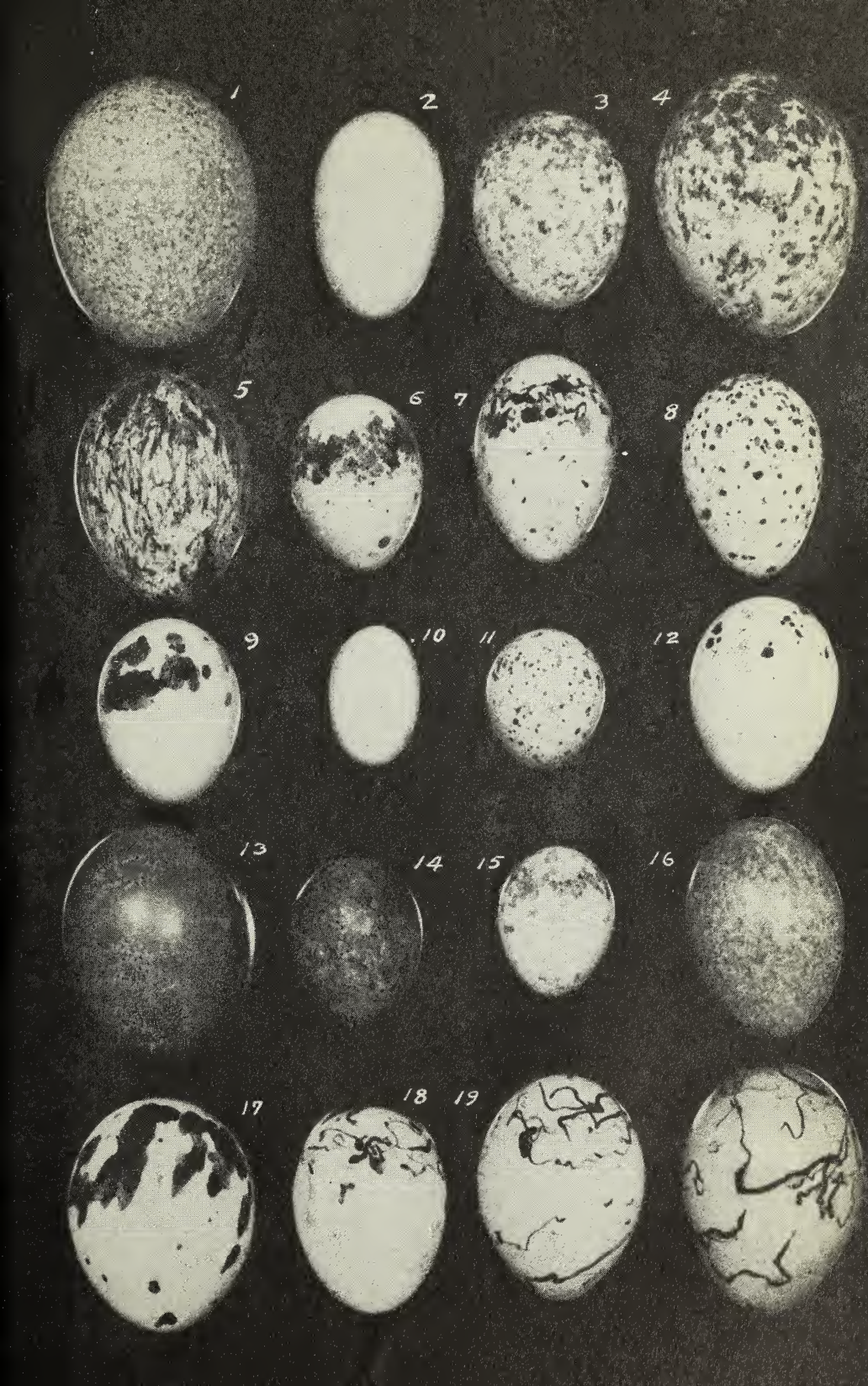
CORINTH: MISS.: Dec. 30. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Fair. Temp. 40. 3 miles s-e of Corinth at Hillandale Country Club. (For notes on the Tree Sparrow, see Round Table section). Benj. R. Warriner.

COVINGTON: Dec. 25. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Temp. 28-32. Partly cloudy and windy. Five miles south of town and thence to Airport. Miss Alice Smith.

PARIS: Dec. 25. Six hours afield. Snowing during a.m. Stiff wind. Temp. 34. North and west of town. Observers: Buster Thompson and Paul Crosswy.

NASHVILLE: Dec. 22. All day afield. Overcast. Deep snow on ground and snowing in a.m. Temp. 27-31. Windy. 6 parties. About Nashville. Observers: Mrs. Laskey, Mrs. Duncan, Mrs. Cochran, Messrs. Abernathy, Calhoun, Campbell, Carter, Crook, Ganier, Mayfield, Monk, Rippy, Shreiber, Tracy, Vaughn, Weakley and Woodring.

WHITE BLUFF (new Montgomery Bell park): Jan. 5. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mostly cloudy. Temp. 28-40. Ground bare. Wooded hills and old fields area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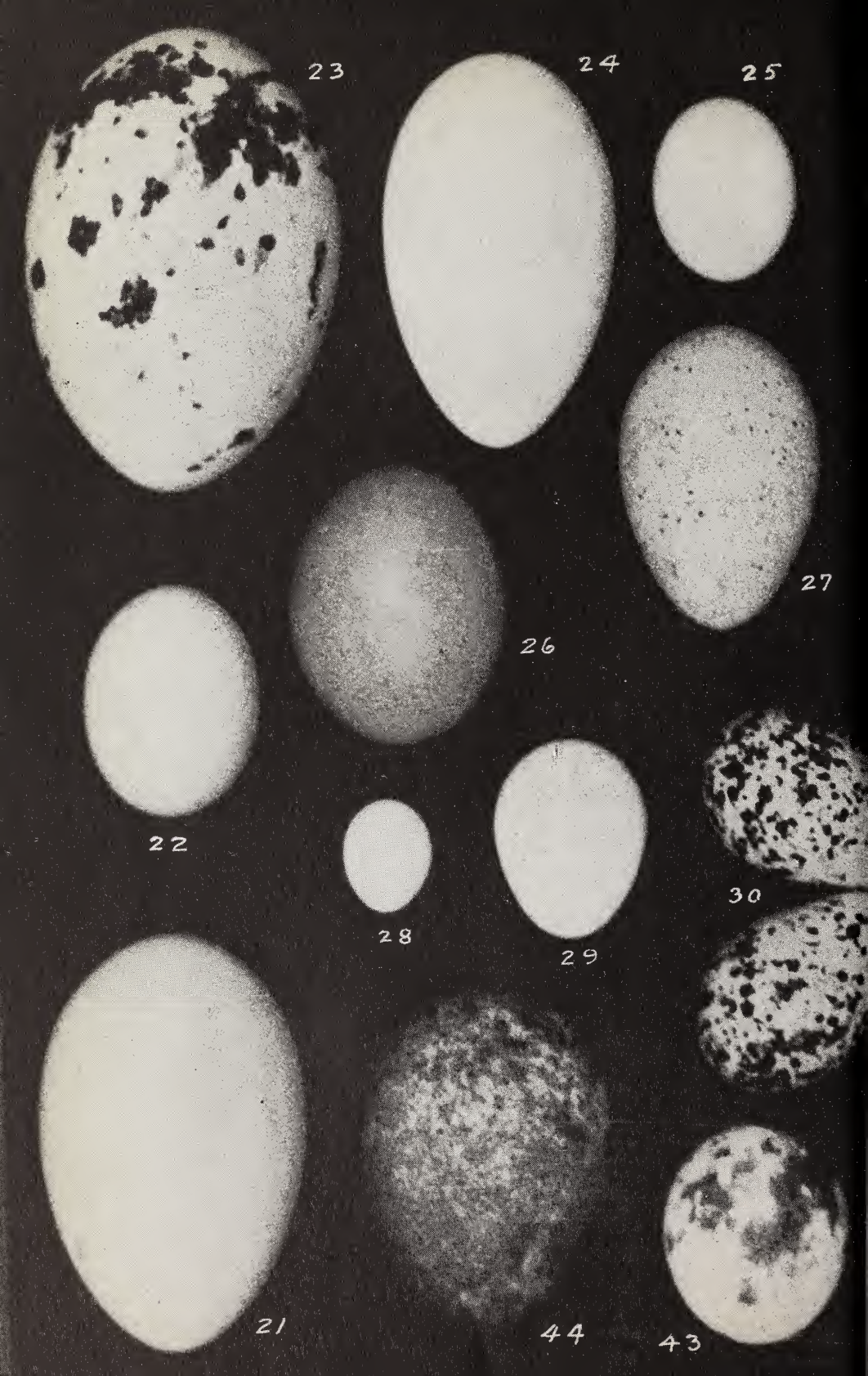
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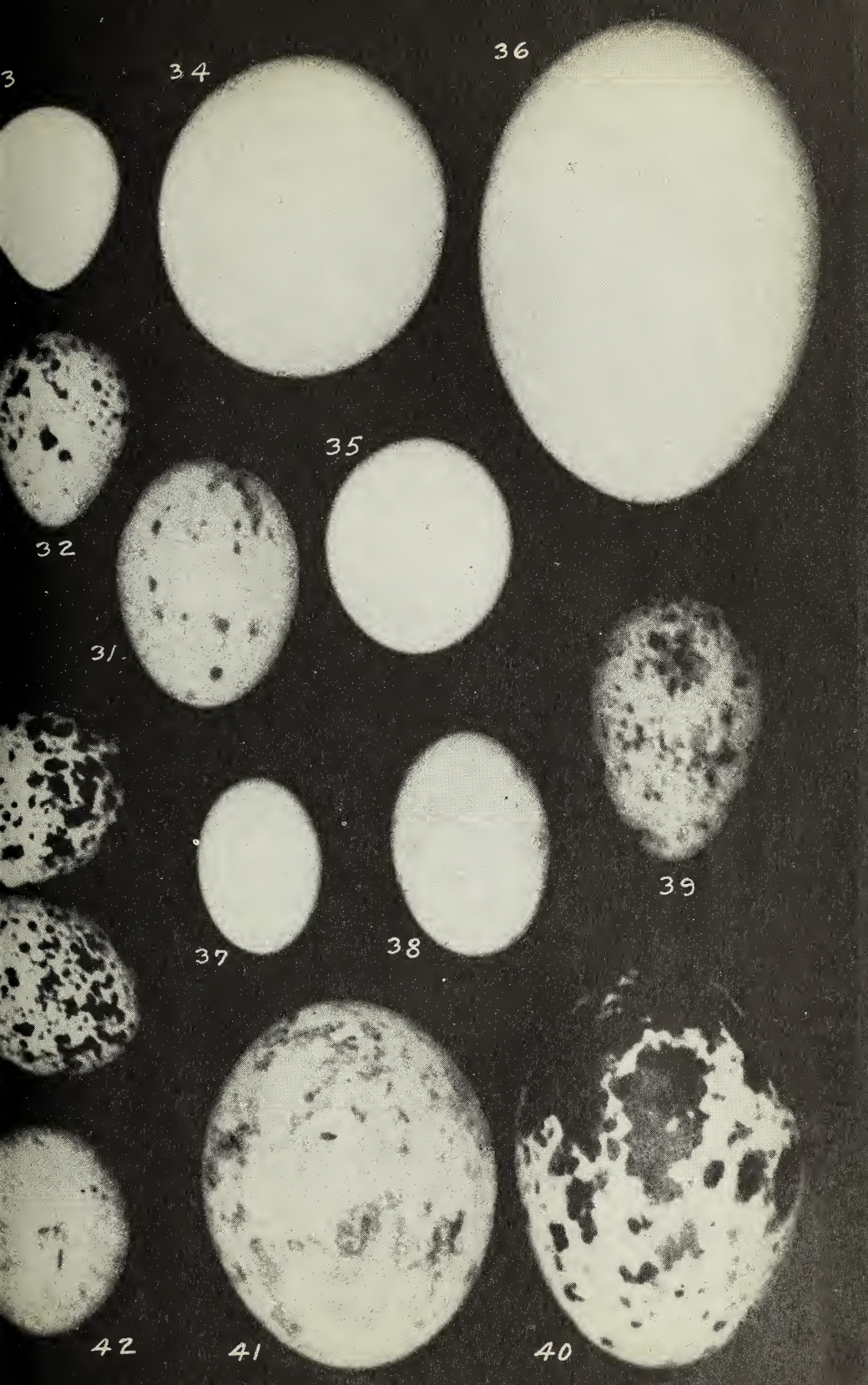
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Nest of the
Yellow-throated
Vireo
built 30 feet
up, in a
Sycamore

of 5,0000 acres with springs and creeks, being converted into naturalistic park. Three parties. A. F. Ganier, H. C. Monk, J. M. Shaver, H. S. Vaughn and G. B. Woodring.

MURFREESBORO: Dec. 29. Ground snow covered. Temp. 28-32. About 5 miles on foot near town. Dr. Black, Geo. Davis, J. M. Edney, Robert Murphy and H. O. Todd.

KNOXVILLE: Dec. 22. 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Overcast and snowing. Temp. 21-29. Within 7:5 mile radius of city. Observers: Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Johnson, Mrs. John Hollander, Messrs. Earl Henry, H. P. Ijams, Jim Trent, Jr., and W. M. Walker.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NAT. PARK: Dec. 22. 6:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cloudy in a.m. with snow falling (2 inches deep at noon), partly cloudy in p.m. Temp. 20-29. Cades Cove chiefly, thence to Walland. Geo. Foster and Arthur Stupka.

JOHNSON CITY: Dec. 25. 7 hours afield. Temp. 20-33. 4 inches of snow on ground. Cox's Lake, Indian Ridge, Boones Ck. and Sugar Hollow. Bruce P. Tyler.

NEW BIRDS FOR THE TENNESSEE LIST

In the March 1934 issue of *The Migrant* (p. 15) there was published a list of seven new birds which had been found during 1933, that had not been recorded up to the time of publishing the *Distributional List of the Birds of Tennessee*, on January 1st of that year. They were the Laughing Gull, Stilt Sandpiper, White-eyed Towhee, White-winged Junco, Clay-colored Sparrow, Gambel's Sparrow and Harris' Sparrow. During 1934 and 1935, thirteen additional species or subspecies have been recorded in *The Migrant*, as follows:

Amer. Eared Grebe, 1935, p. 93, specimen taken near Nashville 1-14-1923.
Greater Scaup Duck, 1935, p. 49, taken in Cocke Co., about 1905.
Black Rail, 1935, p. 49, taken in Cocke Co., June, 1915.
Western Willet, 1935, p. 49, taken in Cocke Co. in 1934.
Western Sandpiper, 1935, p. 52, flock at Memphis, Aug. 7 and 11, 1935.
Piping Plover, 1935, p. 35, one near Memphis on May 5, 1935.
Hudsonian Curlew, 1934, p. 40, one near Memphis on July 8, 1934.
White Ibis, 1935, p. 68, one near Memphis on Sept. 2, 1935.
Rock Dove, 1935, p. 93, found naturalized near Nashville, 1934.
Amer. Rough-leg Hawk, 1935, p. 13, one near Nashville, Dec. 22, 1934.
Brewer's Blackbird, 1935, p. 73, one near Johnson City, April 20, 1935.
Bell's Vireo, 1935, p. 67, nesting at Memphis in June, 1934.
Common Redpoll, 1934, p. 14, one at Johnson City, winter 1933-34.

The total number of birds now credited to Tennessee becomes 316, which number includes accidental and extirpated species.

During 1934-35, *The Migrant* published first nesting records for the State of the following species: Pied-billed Grebe 1934: 29, Blue-winged Teal 1935: 22, Amer. Bittern 1935: 22 and 24, Mississippi Kite 1934: 27, Red-cockaded Woodpecker 1934: 2, Swainson's Warbler 1934: 11, and Vesper Sparrow 1934: 23. The Least Flycatcher was first recorded as a summer resident, 1934: 22.

Among the birds which are rarely recorded in the State, notes on the following were published: White Pelican 1934: 62, 1935: 26 and 38; Whistling Swan 1934: 41, 1935, 27; Blue and Snow Geese 1935: 49, 91; White-winged Scoter 1935: 29; Duck Hawk 1934: 65, 1935: 19, 36, 92, 92; Virginia Rail 1935: 49; Purple Gallinule (nesting) 1935: 23; Upland Plover 1934: 26, 45, 1935: 21, 33, 72; Wilson's Phalarope 1935: 34, 52; Stilt Sandpiper 1935: 12, 52; Laughing Gull 1935: 50; Bonaparte's Gull 1935: 50; Forster's Tern 1934: 31, 1935: 50, Common Tern 1935: 31; Sooty Tern 1934: 46; Long Eared Owl 1935: 14, 39; Olive-sided Flycatcher 1935: 93; Golden-winged Warbler 1935: 34, 35; Connecticut Warbler 1935: 33; Morning Warbler 1935: 70; Blue

Grosbeak 1935: 52; LeConte's Sparrow 1934: 64 and Gambel's Sparrow 1934: 11, 61, 1935: 24, 90.

The above records represent some splendid work on the part of our members and we hope that the next two years will be equally productive. However, we would caution against the recording of any rare bird unless identification is *absolutely positive.* The collecting of specimens of birds new to the State list, particularly of the smaller species, is desirable and is amply justified.—Editor.

BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR 1935:—Papers and notes on Tennessee birds, which have appeared in other journals during the past year, are briefly cited below. In *The Auk:* Jan., Vol. 52, p. 78, "Incubation period of the Black Vulture" (35 days), by Compton Crook; April, 52:194, "Nesting of the Lark Sparrow" (near Murfreesboro) by C. Crook; Oct., 52:370-381, "Mockingbird life history studies" (detailed observations on color banded birds), by Amelia R. Lashey. — In *The Wilson Bulletin:* June, 47:165-6, "The present status of the Olive-sided Flycatcher as a breeding bird in western N. Car. and Tenn." (in Great Smoky Mtns.) by T. D. Burleigh; Dec., 47:285-6, "Cardinal now twelve years old" (banded bird) by A. F. Ganier. — In *Bird Banding:* April, 6:69, "Two Maryland Yellowthroat returns" by Mrs. Laskey; April, 6:66, "Two migration returns of Olive-backed Thrushes" by Mrs. Ana Cochran. — In *Inland Bird Banding News:* Dec. 1934 "Unusual repeat records" (note) by Mrs. Laskey. — In *Journal Tennessee Academy of Science:* Jan., 10:1-18, "The birds of late summer on Reelfoot Lake" (an annotated list of 97 land and water birds) by Compton Crook; April, 10:77-82, "The birds of the campus of Peabody College, Nashville" (part 2, spring transients) by J. M. Shaver and C. Crook; July, 10:179-204; "Some nesting habits of the Brown Thrasher" (at Nashville) by W. G. Erwin; Oct., 10:241-7, "The status of the Black-billed Cuckoo in Tenn." (nest records, etc.) by Compton Crook.

THE MIGRATION OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS is the title of a new pamphlet from the pen of Dr. F. C. Lincoln of the U. S. Biological Survey. It takes the place of a similar pamphlet prepared by Wells W. Cooke in 1917. The present publication comprises 72 pages and includes many maps and halftone illustrations. Dr. Lincoln, by reason of having been in charge of The Survey's bird-banding activities for many years, has admirably equipped himself to handle the subject, for banding records have thrown much new light on the migratory movements of our native birds. As a result, the author has packed its pages with accurate information written in a style that makes it interesting reading for any layman. It is a splendid short treatise on an interesting subject and should be in the library of each of our members. A copy may be secured by sending ten cents (silver) to the Supt. of Documents at Washington for Dept. of Agriculture Circular 363.—A. F. G.

THE ORIOLE makes its bow with the January issue and plans to record bird happenings in Georgia as we do in Tennessee. It is sponsored by the Atlanta Bird Club and will appear quarterly. The makeup is similar to that of *The Migrant* and the first issue contains 12 pages. The editors are Don Eyles and Norman H. Giles, Jr. (959 Drewry Street, Atlanta) from whom it may be obtained at one dollar a year. We wish them every success and trust they may succeed in developing many new bird students in Georgia.

The first member to be admitted to the T. O. S. by its five founders was Dr. George M. Curtis, who was enrolled on October 21, 1915. Dr. Curtis is now Professor of Surgery at Ohio State University and it is a pleasure to announce that he has re-established his membership in the T. O. S.

THE ROUND TABLE

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: The number of individuals of certain species seen on the local Xmas census trip was much higher than usual in the case of the more uncommon nasserine birds such as the Hermit Thrush, Fox Sparrow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and the like. This was partly but not entirely due to the thorough coverage we made of this area. Purple Finches have been fairly common even before the advent of cold "waves" in the North. This seems to be a winter when this erratic appearing species has been regularly present. The Red-breasted Nuthatch has been noted for the first time in several years, being seen by two separate parties (north and south) on the census. An individual has been frequenting the feeding shelf of Scout George Clayton. When severe cold weather blanketed the country we hoped to record some rare winter visitors but without success. However, on March 1st, ten days after our cold weather passed, we found our first Saw-whet Owl, as noted in the item which follows. — Large flocks of Bronzed Grackles which were present and frequently trapped last January and February, have been replaced this year by Starlings which have been widely distributed over the city proper. Small flocks of Grackles became noticeable the last week of February. — A few Brown Thrashers could be found in previous years by carefully searching wooded and brushy bottomlands but on the recent X-mas census we found them almost common. Individuals have been seen all during the winter in the parks and in various city yards; several have re-visited our bird-bander's traps. — Pipits have not been found on any of the usual fields formerly visited here, the only record being made on the census when a flock passed over Mud Island. However they were seen and reported as common at Moon Lake and Shelby, Miss. — At Lakeview, Dec. 15, we saw 20 Pintails, 16 Mallards, a few L. Scaup and Ring-necked Ducks, and 5 Pied-billed Grebes. March 1 we found the following on Mud Lake: Mallard, 4; L. Scaup, 20; Ring-necked Duck, 60; Pintail, 75; Canvasback, 1. At one of the small lakes in the vicinity of North Lake we saw 35 American Mergansers and a Ruddy Duck. Although the former is supposedly a fairly common transient, this is the first time (1928-1936) I have personally seen this species here. We flushed about 15 Wilson Snipe at the highway "pit" but saw none elsewhere. Our search for early Yellowlegs, King Rail, and Sora was unsuccessful. The barrow-pits were dry or low and we can only hope that the spring rains will soon fill them. The lakes are connected to the Mississippi which is beginning a moderate rise.— BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis, Tenn.

SAW-WHET OWL AT MEMPHIS: The morning of March 1st while in Overton Park I decided to learn the cause of an uproar among some Jays and found my first Saw-wheat Owl. *(Cryptoglaux acadica acadica).* Three inquisitive Titmice were within two feet of it and as it flew at my too close an approach, the Jays again gave me a clue as to its location. Identification was easy as it was smaller than a Screech Owl, lacked ear tufts, and had fine white streaks across the tail. The coloring seemed slightly grayer than as shown in "Portraits of New England Birds" nor was the bird as plump. When it again took flight, I left, only to return with six other bird enthusiasts. The bird was located against a background of dead leaves and closely studied. Then an unusual chase developed, with the owl often perching at a height of only four or five feet. Several times we encircled it, approaching thru tangled vines and saplings to within three or four feet each time before it flew. Finally it perched in the open twelve feet high in the fork of a small hornbeam. I knocked it off with my jacket which would have carried the little owl to the ground if the jacket had not hung on a snag. We were unable to spot the

bird again and had to abandon our hope of banding this "ridiculously tame" little owl.—BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis, Tenn.

NOTE: This is the first positive record of the occurrence of this northerly species in Tennessee. There is a mounted specimen in the State Museum, acquired 10 or 12 years ago and said to have been captured near Nashville, but this has not been certainly verified. It is characteristic of the Saw-whet Owl to be unwary of man.—EDITOR.

WINTER VISITORS: December 29, 1935, a day overcast with a thick gray cloud blanket, I took this bird census—a "window census"—for all observations were from the windows of the house. Snow of about two inches was on the ground, a fine mist during part of the day froze on everything and the thermometer around 20 degrees above. Since the birds were coming and going all day, those that were "many" are so indicated. Corn, cracked nuts, bread crumbs and some heads of sumac brought from the farm on a Christmas day walk, furnished food in variety. A dripping hydrant, however, was the chief attraction. Birds seem to appreciate water during a hard freeze, even more than food. The cedars and the privet bushes failed to have berries this year and the Mockingbirds miss them sorely. The birds listed were Flicker 2, Downy Woodpecker 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2, Bluejays 5, Carolina Chickadee 1, Bewick's Wren 1, Mockingbird 2, Shrike 1, Cardinal 12, White-throated Sparrow—many, Slate-colored Junco—many, and English Sparrow—very many. No Robins at all were seen here during December.—ANNE A. MOORMAN, Somerville, Tenn.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE MIGRATION OF OCT. 23: In the last *Migrant*, notes were given from various points on the nocturnal migration of Oct. 23 last and in response to the Editor's request, the following is added. On the occasion referred to, a large number of small birds were found dead here, most of those examined being warblers in obscure fall plummage. This location is the site of the new Pickwick Landing dam across the Tennessee River and is roughly midway between Memphis and Wheeler Dam where Mr. Bamberg made his observations. Construction activities had brought about the installation of floodlights for the work as well as a large number of overhead wires and I believe that many birds were killed by striking these wires. I saw a number of birds lying dead about the shops and warehouses at the dam-site. A friend here however, who takes much interest in birds, tells me that he also found numbers of them lying on the ground and among the weeds where there were no wires. He is of the opinion that they died from exposure after they had been diverted from the routine of their flight and became lost and bewildered by the lights. On the same night and on the following night, great flocks of honking wild geese lost their bearings and milled about the Dam but none were killed so far as I know.—J. C. LAMON, Pickwick Dam, Tenn.

NOTES FROM CLARKSVILLE: The following notes are gleaned from trips afield. A Brown Thrasher was noted on Jan. 27 but could not be found on later trips. On Feb. 16, a Phoebe was noted engaged in "flycatching" close to the edge of water, during a thaw between cold spells. A Marsh Hawk was noted on Washington's Birthday. Three or four Herring Gulls were seen on the Cumberland River on Feb. 16 and were in various phases of plumage. On Feb. 25, Purple Martins were recorded here, this being a remarkably early record. In the late afternoon, one was noted flying about Dr. Chickering's martin house next door and my son observed one or two others on the rest-shelves. On the 29th, one of them was observed again at the box. The birds were carefully scrutinized at close range to eliminate all possibility of their being Starlings, which they somewhat resemble in flight.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville, Tenn.

TREE SPARROW AT CORINTH, MISS.: While making the mid-winter census list of Dec. 30, I found my first Tree Sparrow here. The bird was with a mixed flock of native sparrows and was feeding in a field near a thicket of briars and undergrowth. The snow and ice was three or four inches thick on the ground and the weather had been abnormally cold. The bird's rich reddish brown and white markings and its spick and span appearance made him very noticeable among the rest.—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

THE NORTHERN RANGE OF THE TUFTED TIT: Readers of *The Migrant* may be interested to hear from the extreme northern limit of the range of this bird. I found the first one for Canada at Point Pelee, near the southwest corner of the Province, in latitude 42, on May 2nd, 1914. The bird was known to occur on Belle Isle, east of Detroit, but, though it had been looked for at Windsor, it had not been discovered there. No more were found until 1925 when two ornithologists of Toronto found one there on November 27. Since then, others have been found at various places along Lake Erie, the total of observations amounting to twelve individuals on ten occasions, three of which were in 1935. Toronto is the farthest north of these records, and it is about on latitude 44. All records were within ten miles of Lake Erie except two each at Toronto and Hamilton on Lake Ontario. The latter place, however, is only about twenty miles north of Lake Erie.—W. E. SAUNDERS, London, Ont., Canada.

A MOCKINGBIRD'S WARM ROOST: The night of Feb. 17 witnessed a sudden drop in temperature, the thermometer falling from 33 at noon to one degree below zero during the night. Snow set in at dusk and fell steadily all night. As I passed one of the buildings on Peabody College campus, on my way to the T. O. S. meeting nearby, I chanced to look up at an electric fixture on the wall, partly covered by climbing roses, and noted a Mockingbird roosting just above it. The fixture was a round, frosted glass bowl with no opening on top and a rose branch had grown just across it. There the Mocker sat, not an inch above the warm glass and oblivious to the brilliance of the light or to the snow which had covered the branches all about. When the meeting adjourned, a number of the members walked over to view the bird and found it quite unmindful of their presence or of others who passed in and out the doorway a few feet below. We regretted that the light was on a circuit that had to be turned out a little later. The watchman stated that the bird only resorted to the perch on very cold nights.—JAS A. ROBINS, Nashville.

NORTHERN HORNED LARKS IN TENNESSEE: On December 22, I found a flock of about 60 horned larks feeding alongside the road near the top of a hill in Percy Warner Park near Nashville. They were feeding on the grass seeds that protruded through the snow. By easing the car along, I was able to approach the flock so that the nearest birds were within fifteen feet of me, where I examined them with 8X field glasses. Their throats were quite yellow and the stripes over their eyes were not distinctly white, which factors led me to believe that these were the Northern form, but I could not be sure because I could not collect in the park. Later in the day I collected two larks from another flock. One of these, a female, was sent to Dr. Oberholser for identification, and as I had suspected it proved to be the Northern Horned Lark *(Octocoris alpestris alpestris)*. This is the first record for this form in Tennessee, although it probably occurs in the State not infrequently, either in flocks or mingled with the Prairie Horned Larks. The unusually large number of horned larks reported about Nashville this winter probably account for the presence of this more northerly form. Mr. Ganier has written me that he collected specimens in late January from two other large flocks and they proved to be the northern variety.—JOHN B. CALHOUN, University, Va.

RUFFED GROUSE IN PUTNAM COUNTY: Whether the Eastern Ruffed Grouse *(Bonasa umbellus umbellus)* is decreasing or holding its own in the Tennessee Cumberlands can merely be guessed at. Mr. A. F. Ganier *(Wilson Bulletin,* March, 1923) found evidence of its continued persistence on the Cumberland plateau of Grundy County. The writer is always happy to find recent signs or records of the bird in these mountains, and wishes to record the following: On March 24, 1935, Dr. D. R. Bartoo and the writer flushed a grouse in Stamp's Hollow, in Putnam County. The bird flew so rapidly that plumage could not be clearly seen, nor sex determined. On May 26, 1935, in a deep wooded hollow about a mile from Stamp's Hollow, a native (and old hunter) contributed the following observations. We offer them, not as records, but as possible further evidence of the presence of the bird in Putnam County. One cock "pheasant", apparently without a mate, had been present all spring, and was frequently seen in this hollow. In the adjacent hollow, also wooded, a pair still "used", and the female with a brood of young had been seen several times. The cock was heard drumming "this morning" (the date above).—COMPTON CROOK, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

CARDINAL CHRONICLES: About two years ago, a male and a female Cardinal came to live in the box bushes, near my home. This pair lived peaceably and raised about three broods of young before their first winter here. During that winter, the male showed such jealous attachment to his home territory that he would drive away from the yard all other male Cardinals. Last spring, something repeatedly bumped against certain windows of my home and an investigation showed this male Cardinal to be the culprit. He was shouted at and driven from the windows but he always returned. He would dash against the higher windows of the house at five o'clock in the morning, disturbing the family's slumbers, and he would keep this noise up most of the day. It was very disturbing and so a reason was sought for his actions. Finally came the solution of the problem. As everyone knows, glass reflects objects at different angles and in different lights, and so this Cardinal had been fighting the image of himself in the window. Some white cleansing powder spread over the inside of his favorite windows eliminated the reflection of himself and we were not troubled again, until the powder wore off.*

The pair met their first serious enemies last spring. Their first two nests and eggs were destroyed by a prowling cat, or an opossum, and their third nest was blown out of a small tree during a severe storm. The poor female would rebuild each nest, while the male busied himself with trying to drive away his imaginary rival in the window. The pair finally managed to raise two young ones to maturity before July was over. From July until December, the family lived peaceably and contentedly about the premises.

On this past Christmas Eve, the pair were seen eating small grass seed on the ground and a few moments later came tragedy. A loud crash was heard against a window in the house and a Loggerhead Shrike or "Butcher Bird", was seen pursuing the unfortunate female Cardinal which had flown against the glass. As she bounced back from the window, the Shrike caught and killed her, with successive blows or pecks on the back of the head. The murderer, being only a fraction of an inch larger than its victim, was unable to carry it to a thorn tree, to impale it upon a thorn for a future meal, so began to eat his victim on the ground. The male was rather afraid of the Shrike, and scolded, while the latter made the kill. Shortly afterward, I got a shotgun and killed the marauder, fearing his future raids. Why the Shrike attacked so large a bird as a Cardinal is a mystery, as the Shrike seemed to be in good condition, and its stomach was full of small beetles. The male Cardinal has now a new mate, and continues to peck on certain windows of the house, as though nothing had happened.—HARRY YEATMAN, Columbia, Tenn.

*Editor's Note: Male birds frequently fight their reflections at mating time. Last spring, on the State Capitol grounds, a Robin busied himself much

of the day, fighting his image in the windshields of parked autos. At my home, a Mockingbird developed the same habit at windows while standing on the sill. The trouble was finally stopped by stretching two lines of heavy black thread across the window about three inches above the sill.

TWO SEASONS WITH A PAIR OF PROTHONOTARY WARBLERS: In the summer of 1934 a pair of Prothonotary Warblers built their nest in a small tin can, nailed to the outside of the column on the front porch. The eggs disappeared very mysteriously, and the birds left our neighborhood, and I did not see them again till the nesting season of 1935. I had put up more cans in various places about the outbuildings, and on the front porch. They chose the can on the porch again, and began to build. When the nest was near completion they disappeared for about a week. During their absence a pair of chipping sparrows had preempted the can, and finished the nest to their own liking with horse hair, leaving a couple of long hairs hanging out of the can. They had hardly finished their building, when the Prothonotary Warblers returned. They were greatly perturbed, flying back and forth, to and from the nest, and pulling out the horse hair and carrying it far away. When it was relined with finely broken dead leaves, and three eggs had been laid, I found one of them broken, on the porch floor, and another with a hole pecked in it, so I removed the third egg, hoping that the birds would choose one of the other cans about the place, more remote from danger. I found them a week or so later in a much deeper can, on the garage, some distance from the house. Here they built another nest, laid five eggs, and hatched three beautiful little birds—unmolested by any enemy. I enjoyed seeing them learning to fly, from one bush to another in the althea hedge. I hope they won't forget their successful season here and will come again next summer. A surprising thing about these warblers is the fact, that although they are supposed to dwell only near water, there is no stream or pond or other body of water closer to my home than the Cumberland River, a mile away.—MRS. SANFORD DUNCAN, Nashville.

BLUE GOOSE IN SPRING: During the late winter and spring of 1929, a series of heavy rains formed a large pond near my home east of Murfreesboro. In all, about fifteen acres were submerged. During this time a number of water birds were recorded here, including Coots by the dozen, several hundred Ducks, Yellowlegs, Sandpipers, and Wilson's Snipe in marshy places around the pond. On April 16, I noticed a large bird on the far shore, feeding several feet back from the water. It allowed approach to within about fifty yards before taking flight, when a shot from a gun disabled and brought it down. On examination it was found to be a Blue Goose *(chen caerulescens)*. Its only injury seemed to be the shattering of the extreme joint of one wing and this I amputated to hasten its recovery. I then put the bird in a large cage, along with a quantity of shelled corn, but it did not eat for several days. In fact, the goose did not seem to know what shelled corn was and it did not occur to me at the time that its staple food was green vegetation. The wing healed and I turned it out to graze on grass. It seen became very tame and would follow my mother about like a dog. I kept the goose for four years and during that time it laid four eggs. The only time it showed any unrest was during the spring and fall when it was time to migrate. At these times, being unable to fly, it would start off on foot and would sometimes get four or five miles away from home before it was re-captured and brought back. In the fall of 1933 the bird wandered over to a neighbor's farm and was shot by a dove hunter.—HENRY O. TODD, Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Editor's Note: The Blue Goose, in its spring migrations from the Louisiana coast to Hudson Bay, usually follows a line of flight west of the Mississippi. Spring records eastward are therefore of interest. At Bowling Green, Ky., Dr. Gordon Wilson observed three on March 13, 1933, and recorded them in the *Wilson Bulletin* for June, 1933, page 83.

THE SEASON AT KNOXVILLE:—Ducks have been present in small numbers along the Tennessee all winter; 3 Canvas-backs (rare here) and 3 Amer. Golden-eyes were seen below Knoxville on the river, January 3. Lesser Scaup and Amer. Mergansers have been seen in larger numbers and more frequently reported. — Horned Larks, present before Christmas, reappeared in large numbers following an eight inch snow on February 7. — Red-breasted Nuthatches have been somewhat commoner this year than is usual, perhaps being driven down from the mountains by severe cold and much snow. — A Brown Thrasher is wintering in Fountain City, the first time it has done so in several years. — Scattered flocks of Robins have been present throughout all of our near-zero weather. — A single American Pipit has been reported three times this year; on January 2nd and 3rd and again later in the month. — A lone Tennessee Warbler was observed for the better part of half an hour on January 3; our first mid-winter record for this bird. — A number of interesting reports of Starlings have come in during this recent cold spell. They have resorted to the top of chimneys for the warmth and during heavy snows have been seen feeding on piles of floating drift-wood in the river. — Fox Sparrows are much more common this year and have been reported from numerous localities. — The following notes are from the Great Smokies National Park. The Raven has been repeatedly reported from Newfound and Indian Gaps. Sunday, February 9, Jim Trent and I saw 3 of them on the state line near Indian Gap where there is an average depth of 14 inches of snow. Several times during the Christmas holidays I saw the Vesper Sparrow at Gatlinburg and February 9 I saw it there again.
GEORGE FOSTER, Knoxville.

A FLORIDA (SANDHILL) CRANE AT CHATTANOOGA:—On June 1, 1935, or within a day of that date, a Florida or Sandhill Crane was captured within the city limits of Chattanooga. The bird was found in a marshy spot and appeared to be exhausted or ill. It was readily captured by a negro and his dog without further injury. He kept the bird in his yard for a day or two when another dog got into the enclosure and injured the bird's neck. Its captor then took it to the Fin and Feather Pet Shop by whom I was informed of the occurrence. Thinking that the reported "Crane" was probably merely a Great Blue Heron, I was not particularly interested at first and did not investigate until two or three days later. Mr. Mitchell, the owner of the pet shop, had been forcibly feeding the bird on gold fish but it had died shortly before I came to examine it. The skin of the bird was prepared and is now in the collection of the University of Chattanooga.—WILBUR K. BUTTS, Dept. of Biology, University of Chattanooga.

NOTE:—The above constitutes the first record of this species for Tennessee. The bird is probably the Florida form *(Grus canadensis pratensis)* and a straggler from that state where they are summer residents in limited numbers. In early days, when the Sandhill Crane was common in the upper Mississippi valley, this form doubtless occurred as a regular transient in West Tennessee.—EDITOR.

SCREECH OWL KILLS A PIGEON:—On the night of December 27, on Gay Street, in our main retail section, a Screech Owl attacked a roosting pigeon and finally killed it after a prolonged struggle. Frank Carter, local lawyer, while passing by late on the night mentioned, came across the struggling birds on the sidewalk in front of a brightly lighted show-window and stood by to watch the outcome. "That little owl looked up at me with eyes like a cat's and I thought for a moment he was going to attack me too," he said. Finally, the Owl locked his feet around his victim and, sinking his talons into it's vitals, held on until the pigeon succombed. The owl was then captured and taken to the office of the News-Sentinel nearby, to be duly photographed and featured in the morning's news.—H. P. IJAMS, Knoxville.

EAGLES RELEASED IN THE SMOKIES: Four eagles have been received recently from the State Dept. of Fish and Game for release in the new Smoky Mountains National Park. These had been trapped by farmers and confiscated by Mr. Damon Headden, State Game Warden. The first received on Jan. 3 was a Bald Eagle, from West Tenn. It was in poor condition and died before it could be released. Two Golden Eagles, trapped near Watertown, about Jan. 20, were received a week later. A large flying cage, 8x8x26 feet, was constructed so they could be fed and held until a break in the wintry weather On Feb. 26, the birds were banded 802821 and 802822, with bands supplied by Mrs. Laskey, and released. They appeared fairly strong on the wing and it is hoped they will remain in the park. Another Golden Eagle, trapped near Watertown about the same time as the others, was received Feb. 6. It had apparently been mistreated and died four days later. It was reported that five eagles in all were seen at the Watertown location.—ARTHUR STUPKA, Park Naturalist, Gatlinburg, Tenn.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF WINTER BIRDS OF NORTH-EAST TENN.—To our previous list (see *The Migrant*, 1933 p. 25-29 and 1934, p. 14) we wish to add the following.

Broad-winged Hawk. *(Buteo p.platypterus)*. An individual of this species was seen in the vicinity of Cox's Lake at Johnson City, on Dec. 1, 1935. It continued to live around the lake for more than a month, until the very cold weather of mid-January presumably drove it southward. Since the occurrence of this hawk in Tennessee in winter is very unusual the following from the notes taken by Mr. Tyler, who first found the bird, is in order. "I was coming thru the swamp adjacent to Cox's Lake, looking for sparrows, in a mass of cat-tails and could only see over the tops of the lowest of them. The noise of my approach flushed the hawk which flew to a fence post near the spring branch that feeds the swamp and lake. There it rested oblivious to all danger and within easy reach of my field glass. On the rise, it was evident that it was of the genus buteo. As far as my observations go, there are but three of this genus occurring here, the Red-tailed, the Red-shouldered and the Broad-winged Hawks. The first two were quickly eliminated by the size and color of the tail. The individual before me showed the broad white band in the tail which is characteristic of the Broad-wing. The swamp evidently provided even at this late date, the aquatic type of food which is preferred by this species." On subsequent trips the identity of the bird was checked by Mr. Lyle.

Red-shouldered Hawk *(Buteo l. lineatus)*. On Jan. 4, 1936, I had a very satisfactory view of one of these hawks. I had been "ploughing" thru a thicket of old weeds, pokeberry stalks and dewberry vines, along Boone Creek near Flourville, where the going was hard and slow. As I came into a deep gulley I was surprised to see a hawk rise not far in front of me and alight on a low limb, facing me. There I observed it leisurely and noted that it was an immature bird. To distinguish between the immature birds of the Buteos is not always easy but in the present species, the uniform markings on the breast, the yellow on the legs matching the prominent yellow at base of bill, the absence of the white throat of the Broad-wing, the numerous tail bands, its size and, as Warren cites, a characteristic owl-like flight, branded this unmistakably as the Red-shouldered.

Wilson's Snipe *(Capella delicata)*. On Jan. 11, 1936, in the warm spell following the severe cold of late December and early January, this species was observed at Cox's Lake near Johnson City. Its occurrence at this season is unusual. First appearance for 1933, 1934 and 1935 were March 12, 18 and 17 respectively.

Northern Horned Lark *(Otocoris a. alpestris)*. The almost unprecedented cold of the present winter has brought this species of Tennessee. On Feb. 1, 1936, I came across a flock of eight in a snow covered field. They had found a frozen ear of corn on the ground and had gathered about it. As I stood

nearby, watching them vigorously pecking at the corn, I was able to note their larger size and appreciably more yellow head markings than those of the Prairie Horned Lark.

Red-headed Woodpecker *(Melanerpes erythrocephalus)*. During the entire winter of 1934-35 a pair of these birds lived with us in a small grove. I regret to add that a boy with a 22 rifle shot both during the ensuing spring so this winter sees us without them.

House Wren *(Troglodytes aedon* subspecies). In December 1935, this species was frequently observed, probably being delayed transients. The open fall of 1935 apparently retarded the southerly migration, as is shown from the observation here of a Great Blue Heron on Nov. 24.

Brewer's Blackbird *(Euphagus cyanocephalus)*. A second record of this species was made here on Feb. 1, 1936. The previous record was of one seen on April 20, 1935.

Lincoln's Sparrow *(Melospiza l. lincolni)*. One of these birds was observed by Tyler, on Dec. 25, in company with Juncos and other native sparrows, feeding in a field at the edge of a thicket. Probably a delayed transient.—BRUCE P. TYLER AND ROBERT B. LYLE, Johnson City, Tenn.

CHAPTER NEWS

NASHVILLE CHAPTER:—Spring meeting dates will be as follows: March 2, 16, 30, April 13, 27, May 11, 25 and June 8th, at 7:30 P. M., Social-Religious Building of Peabody College. The annual Spring Field Day will be held on Sunday, May 3, on Sycamore Creek, northwest of Nashville. Members from all over the State are cordially invited. Officers of the Nashville Chapter are Prof. J. A. Robins, president and Benj. H. Abernathy, (Hobbs Road) secretary-treasurer.

KNOXVILLE CHAPTER (E. T. O. S.): The dates of Spring meetings and the sponsors for each will be as follows: March 4, at Flowercraft Shop (Prof. B. C. V. Ressler); March 15, Andrew Jackson Lake (Mrs. Frank Leonhard); April 1, Flowercraft (George Foster); April 19, Big Ridge Park (S. A. Ogden); May 3, Spring Bird Census at Island Home (H. P. Ijams); May 6, Flowercraft (Jim Trent, Jr.); May 17, Old Fort Louden (H. P. Ijams); June 3, Flowercraft (Brockway Crouch); June 21, Clingman's Dome in Great Smokies Nat. Park (Bob Burch). Officers of the Knoxville Chapter are W. M. Walker, president, Dr. Earl Henry, vice-president, S. A. Ogden, curator and George Foster, (2352 Magnolia St.) secretary-treasurer.

THE MEMPHIS CHAPTER will hold regular meetings as usual but their schedule had not come in as we go to press. Their officers are, Dr. Clarence E. Moore, president; Dabney Crump, vice-president, and Franklin McCamey (1637 Netherwood Ave.) secretary.

THE MURFREESBORO CHAPTER, Mr. Henry O. Todd, secretary, holds its meetings on the second Friday of each month and members get together for field trips each week-end.

A Clarksville Chapter of the T. O. S. is now being organized and ten members have already been enrolled. Regular meetings and field days will be held and the new chapter has set for its first task, the listing of the birds of Montgomery County. We shall have a more detailed report on this chapter in our June issue.

Our advertisers have been chosen because of their reliability and because they have merchandise used by bird students. By their patronage they assist in financing this journal. Members should reciprocate by giving their patronage in return. Remember too, that they are glad to serve you by mail.

FLOWERS.—In the December number of *The Wilson Bulletin,* the splendidly conducted quarterly of The Wilson Ornithological Club, the Editor, Dr. T. C. Stephens, reviews one of our recent issues as follows.—"*The Migrant* for September 1935, is an exceptionally interesting number. Several authors jointly present a "History of The Tennessee Ornithological Society", "Biographical Sketches of Founder Members", "Among Our Contributors", "Early Reminiscences" by Dixon Merritt, are articles which continue the account of the activities of the leaders of one of the older state ornithological societies. Four pages of portraits and snapshots complete a record that will be received with satisfaction by all who are engaged in similar work. Our attention is especially taken by an article entitled, "A T.O.S. Field Day", by John Craig. The author is a stranger to us, but we salute him as a master of descriptive writing. Besides furnishing the bird lover with a very entertaining account of his favorite pastime, we consider this article to present the best single bit of propaganda for the study of birds (without a gun) extant. It would be fine if this article could be reprinted in quantity for public use. A reprint sent to a hunter friend might make many a convert to the use of a field glass."

We thank you Dr. Stephens.—(No reprints were made but for those who may wish additional copies of the above anniversary issue, copies may still be had at twenty-five cents each.)

BIRD RECORDS TABULATED BY FERA STUDENTS AT VANDERBILT: The FERA Committee at Vanderbilt University has seen fit to assign two students to Dr. G. R. Mayfield for the purpose of tabulating all of his bird records made during the last 20 years, 1915 through 1934. These cards number more than 2,000 and constitute daily lists made by him, alone or in company with others, chiefly in the vicinity of Nashville. In the form in which they existed it was difficult to quickly arrive at the seasonal distribution of the various species of birds and so he requested the FERA Committee to furnish him the necessary assistance to tabulate the records in more convenient form. The form chosen is that of a 4x6 card for each species and on this card is written all the dates when it was recorded and the number observed on each of these dates. So far, the cards have been made out for transients, for winter visitants and for summer residents excepting those which are common permanent residents. These tabulations make it possible to get a good idea of the migratory movements and numbers present of each species through the various months. The tabulations will be in possession of Vanderbilt University for general reference. An additional set has been copied off and presented to the Tennessee Ornithological Society for its archives.

THE STARLING, which mimics the vocal efforts of other birds and even attempts human speech, is apparently making good as an entertainer in other lines. In *The Raven,* Mr. C. C. Handley of Blacksburg, Va., relates that he came upon a flock, one cold snowy day dining with the pigs in a feeding pen. When their feet would get cold they would simply fly up on the pig's back, as many as 25 or 30 on one porker, and there use his ample "deck" as an animated foot warmer. An observer at Louisville, Mr. Robert L. Duckworth, told of one which flew down to a bird bath filled with warm water and there took a bath while the mercury was hovering around zero. A few moments later the bird attempted to fly away but came down with a thud—its wing feathers sheathed and bound with ice. Starlings are not reputed to be *carnivorous* but the Editor cannot refrain from contributing the following. At this home one morning a flock of them alit on the lawn to eat the fallen hackberries, the day after the big snow thawed. Now Starlings like water but there was none handy so every now and then they would run over and bite a piece off what was left of the *snow-man.*

THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF TENNESSEE BIRDS.
PUBLISHED AT NASHVILLE, TENN., BY THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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Assistant to the Editor, Miss Georgie Reed, Nashville.

Regional Editors: Ben B. Coffey, Memphis; Harry P. Ijams, Knoxville and Bruce P. Tyler, Johnson City.

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"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough, it is not necessary to go beyond it."

EDITORIAL CHAT

The T. O. S. enters the new year with bright prospects for constructive work ahead and with satisfaction over its past record. Nearly one hundred new members have been added since last summer. Never has the public been so bird-minded as at the present time. With the development of National plans for more recreation and for "the fuller life", birds will take their rightful place as one of the greatest attractions of the out-of-doors.

A hard winter, is the way we will recall the one just past. December, with an average mean temperature of 34.0 degrees, broke a 60 year record except for 1917 when 31.4 was recorded. January with 33, was colder only in four other previous years and went out with a great deal of snow and one of the coldest spells on record, low temperature on the 27th being 3 degrees below zero. The "all time lows" are 13 below in 1899 and 10 below in 1918. The 33 day period between Jan. 19 and Feb. 20, showed an average daily temperature of 24.4 as compared with a normal of 40 degrees and the ground was rarely free of snow. The figures given are for Nashville.

The ability of birds to foretell a cold winter seems to have been pretty well substantiated during the one just past. Reports from all over the State show that Grackles were practically absent during December, January and until the last week in February. Robins and Waxwings were present only in small numbers. Horned Larks, Starlings and several other species, which are usually most abundant northward, visited Tennessee in unusual numbers.

The Migrant makes apologies for a somewhat cramped literary style; our pages are few in number so much condensation must necessarily be resorted to.

In this issue there are more than thirty articles and news items. This is good evidence of the amount of interest present in the T. O. S.

As we go to press, Spring in vernal dress is bursting on the scene and winter—with welcome long since lost—is in retreat. Bluebirds are calling to their mates, Cardinals and Titmice are whistling, plump breasted Robins are back on our lawns, while Jays and Grackles are garrulously flying about inspecting nesting sites. From fields the Meadowlarks hail the ploughman as he turns the damp soil for another crop. In marsh and pond, the cheery *honk-a-ree-ree* of the Redwing blends with the resonant call of "spring peepers," begging south winds to bring another shower. Hours afield on days like these make us feel that it's good to be living and particularly so when we know birds and all nature.

W. H. SEDBERRY

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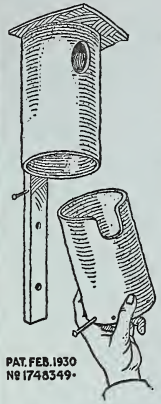

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A QUARTERLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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THE MIGRANT

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NESTING OF THE CLIFF SWALLOW IN TENNESSEE

By A. F. Ganier and S. A. Weakley

Tennessee numbers among her birds six members of the swallow family, the Northern Cliff Swallow, the Bank Swallow, the Rough-winged Swallow, the Tree Swallow, the Barn Swallow and the Purple Martin. Of these all except the first two mentioned had been found nesting within the State up to the present year. Local bird students have been on the lookout for some evidence of the nesting of Cliff Swallows *(Petrochelidon albifrons albirons)* for a good many years but without success. Their normal nesting range lies well north of Tennessee and there the birds usually attach their nests of mud pellets to the outside eaves of a barn or other out-building. In earlier times however their nesting colonies were confined to cliffs and from this habit they received their name. Even as transients, these birds are not frequently recorded in our State though occasionally, in the mixed flocks of swallows that congregate in migration over lakes and ponds, one can pick out a number of these conspicuously marked birds. They are gaudily clad little fellows, being marked with dark red, dark blue, brown, black and white. They somewhat resemble the Barn Swallow except for the lack of a forked tail.

On May 24, 1936, the writers investigated a colony of these birds that had been reported breeding on the Cumberland River, at Dover, about 60 miles west of Nashville. In our party were also Messrs. G. R. Mayfield and H. S. Vaughn of Nashville, and from Clarksville, Messrs. C. F. Pickering, Alfred Clebsch, Sr., and sons, Alfred and William, John Lewis and Dexter Haynes. We crossed the river at Dover, then drove on through the Fort Donelson Park and halted at the river bank above Lock D and its connected dam. Looking ahead, we saw numbers of the swallows skimming over the water and darting under the guard wall of the lock that faced the river above the dam. Walking across the lock gates and peering upstream under the parapet, we could see the clustered nests and from them flew hundreds of the birds. After we had watched them for some time, those of us who had brought movie and still cameras took a skiff and rowed around to where we could look up at the nests just above our heads. Photos taken from the boat are shown on page 40. The wall is about 110 feet long and is reinforced by 7 buttresses surmounted by a concrete walkway. This construction formed 6 recesses under the walk, each 3 feet deep, 12 feet long and rising to 12 feet above the water. The nests were built back in these recesses and were therefore well sheltered from the sun, rain and from all enemies, save those who might approach with a boat. In the six recesses we counted 310 nests (91—72—43—40—34—30). Of half a dozen we opened, all held 4 or 5 eggs well incubated except one set of 4 which was nearly fresh. Many nests however were in various stages of construction, a number being just begun.

The nests of this species are perhaps the most unusual of any of our native birds, as will be noted by examining the photographs on pages 40 and 41. They are constructed entirely of little pellets of mud, each stuck around the rim until the structure finally takes the form of a crooked necked squash or gourd, with the down-pointing stem left open for entry. One of these stems hung down for more than a foot. The nests sometimes overlap each other. The late ones are begun below those that are already finished but as close up

as possible. In those under construction, the last laid pellets were still dark colored due to their dampness. For lining, there was merely "a pinch" of soft dead grass leaves and on this the eggs rested. The latter are white, thickly speckled with reddish brown. The nests remain until the flood waters of winter rise above them and they then dissolve and fall away, leaving the concrete clean for the following spring.

As we sat quietly in the boat, the swallows would sweep past us in flocks, going in and out of their nests except those that were very close to us. They kept up an incessant "conversational chatter" which was not unpleasant to hear and which blended with the low roar of the water going over the dam. The birds receive complete protection here and there is every reason to believe that the colony will be a permanent one. The lock and dam was built in 1916 and the birds have been there for a number of years. We were told by one of the lock tenders that a small colony branched off a few years ago and built some nests on the north bank pier of the new (1930) bridge a half mile upstream. We visited this site but saw neither nests nor birds.

In the Tennessee River, about 13 miles northeast (down-stream) from Savannah, Tenn., there is an island which from early times has been called Swallow Bluff Island. On the Decatur County shore, at the end of a long limestone bluff where the steamboats stopped, the place is called Swallow Bluff Landing. The names were derived from the fact that here, there exists another nesting colony of Cliff Swallows. The photographs reproduced on page 41, show (d) the low cliff under which the long line of nests are built and which, after rising sheer from the water, juts out to form a wide over-hang, (e) a close-up view showing how the nests are stuck to the vertical face just below the shelving rock, and (f) a general view of a part of the cliff with about 90 nests in sight in the section shown. This colony has doubtless been in existence for many years. It is quite probable that the early nests are destroyed every few years by late spring floods. The photos were taken from the official photograph album of the U. S. Engineer's Office at Nashville and are by Mr. Allison Trice of that office.

The two locations described represent, so far as we know, the most southerly breeding sites of this species at the present time. Mr. A. H. Howell, in his state list, The Birds of Alabama, states that in 1913 he visited a colony of about 100 nests on a cliff above the Tennessee River near Fort Deposit, Ala. This site is 120 miles southeast of Swallow Bluff. The birds have not been seen in that vicinity on recent river trips (by Weakley) but a more careful investigation will be made at a future date.

NASHVILLE, TENN., May, 1936.

WATERFOWL IN SPRING ON NORRIS LAKE

BY JAMES TRENT, JR.

The recent completion of the Norris dam, north of Knoxville, and the heavy rainfall of early spring, caused the rivers to rapidly begin filling the valleys and to form a lake extending for many miles above. This lake is the beginning of a body of water that will, at the maximum depth of about 200 feet at the dam, cover an area of 34,200 acres extending 72 miles up the Clinch River and 63 miles up the Powell.

On April 10, 1936, having learned that a large number of migrating waterfowl had already found the new lake, George Foster, Jr., and the writer decided to spend the day there and make a census. We launched our canoe from the east shore, at the head of the arm known as Big Ridge Lake, a narrow water-filled valley extending about a mile from the main Clinch River valley. The water here was rather muddy and a considerable drift of weeds and corn stalks was floating about. Our first birds were a pair of Blue-winged Teal which flushed nearby as we paddled on out toward the main lake. Most

of the Blue-wings we saw on the trip were in pairs. We soon began to encounter large numbers of Coots but they did not seem to "feel at home" or else had been shot at, for they flushed at long distances ahead.

Turning eastward, we found that the shallow inlets were each well provided with ducks and Coots. On taking flight they would follow the water route back to the main lake, thus giving us a good view of their flight pattern as they passed near our canoe. In the second inlet we found the largest flock of the day. About 400 Lesser Scaup arose from the water on our approach and were presently joined by 200 more from further up the inlet, presenting a sight new to East Tennessee eyes. As we paddled out again we saw several large gulls approaching and as they came closer we were able to identify them as Ring-billed Gulls. Trailing in their wake was a smaller bird which on its closer approach was seen to be a Bonaparte's Gull. Later in the day, as we were paddling over the site of the village of Loyston, now under a hundred feet of water, we came across four more of the Bonaparte's Gulls resting on the water. By paddling to windward and then letting the boat drift toward them, we were able to observe them from a distance of 100 feet. One was in perfect mature plumage, two were immatures and the fourth seemed midway between. Their ability to use the force of the wind in lifting themselves from the water makes them appear as light as thistle down and in flight they are exceedingly graceful.

As we proceeded up the lake we saw more and more ducks but only the Scaup were in sizable flocks. As Ringnecks and Blue-winged Teals flew out of the inlets, they came so close that the finest details of color and markings could be observed. Black Ducks were present in very small numbers and Mallards were seen only twice; we found a few Baldpates and Green-winged Teal. In one of the wide sections of the main lake we discovered a pair of the uncommon little Ruddy Ducks. At mid-day, after we had pulled up on a small island to eat our lunch, Foster hiked around its shore and on returning, reported two Shovellers, a pair of Baldpate and seven Gadwalls. Paddling back into the second inlet, mentioned above, we were elated to find three Canada Geese feeding on the shore. As we approached to within 150 yards they became restless and then took flight with an enormous amount of honking for so few birds.

As we concluded the day, we checked over our list and estimated that we had seen approximately 1500 water birds. These were as follows: Lesser Scaup 800, Coot 500, Blue-winged Teal 59, Ring-necked Duck 39, Black Duck 34, Gadwall 8, Baldpate 5, Common Mallard 4, Shoveller 3, Green-winged Teal 3, Ruddy Duck 2, unidentified ducks 100, Canada Goose 3, Ring-billed Gull 4, Bonaparte's Gull 4 and Lesser Yellowlegs 1. On the following day we returned, having with us Mr. William Vogt of New York, Editor of *Bird-Lore*, and in addition to most of the birds enumerated above we also listed an American Merganser, Horned Grebe and Herring Gull. On April 12, on a shorter trip on the lake, we added a Hooded Merganser to the list, making an even dozen species of ducks.

Aside from our narrow rivers, East Tennessee has heretofore had no "way station" for transient waterfowl such as Norris Lake is and will continue to be. It is particularly interesting to note that these transients found it in large numbers during the first few months of its existence. Since the draw-down late in the year will reduce the lake to 13,500 acres, it is a moot question whether the ducks will find it to their liking, for the fluctuating water level will discourage the growth of plant food. But one thing is certain—this spring has seen the finest concentration of migrating waterfowl ever seen in this section and it is our hope that through the protection they may expect to receive on this lake, this concentration may occur each year in the future.

KNOXVILLE, TENN., May, 1936.

COWBIRD NESTING RECORDS FOR DAVIDSON COUNTY

By HARRY C. MONK

The Cowbird is one of the rare breeding birds of Davidson County, some seasons passing without a single nesting record being obtained. It is also our only parasitic species, laying its eggs in the nests of other birds and depending upon them to hatch and rear its young. For these reasons it has seemed worthwhile to compile the local breeding records which are now scattered in a number of private files.

Twenty-eight records, divided among thirteen species, have been gathered and are tabulated below. These records were obtained in twelve of the past nineteen years, beginning in 1918. The year 1919 leads with five records; it is further remarkable that all five were found in one locality, Acklen Park, and in the nests of one species, the White-eyed Vireo. A dozen localities within the county have furnished Cowbird records, but one half of these were obtained in the Acklen-Centennial Park area. Egg dates range from April 27 into the first week of July. The great majority are evidently laid in May.

Study of these records shows the Cowbird follows its well-known preference for the nests of smaller birds, especially warblers and vireos, as a receptacle for its eggs.

Seven local observers have contributed data to this paper, as follows: Mrs. Laskey, Dr. Harry Vaughn, George Woodring, A. F. Ganier, Dr. Shaver, Compton Crook and the writer. Their records are credited in the following list either by name, or the corresponding initials. Unless otherwise stated the records were obtained in Acklen-Centennial Parks by the writer. Not more than one Cowbird egg has been found in any nest.

Carolina Wren, July 9, 1933, a nest placed in a crotch of a roadside tree at Radnor Lake contained 3 eggs of the wren and one of the Cowbird. This record was so unusual that it was reported in *The Auk*, 1934, p. 384. It is also our latest date for Cowbird's eggs at Nashville. Found by Crook.

White-eyed Vireo. The following five records were made in 1919 in Acklen Park. April 27, one egg of vireo and one of Cowbird, left until May 1, when both showed some incubation. April 27, one fresh Cowbird egg, no vireo eggs; nest evidently deserted as no birds were present when revisited May 1. May 1, a fresh Cowbird egg, no vireo eggs; left until May 7, nest deserted. April 28, 1 vireo egg; revisited May 2 and contained 3 vireo eggs and one Cowbird. May 17, bird sitting on 4 vireo eggs and one Cowbird, all fresh. May 13, 1924, 4 vireo eggs and one Cowbird, all fresh, at Radnor Lake, Dr. Vaughn. This species leads all others in number of records, probably because of its size, its local abundance, and the ease with which its low swung nests may be examined.

Red-eyed Vireo. May 28, 1920, 3 vireo eggs and one Cowbird, all fresh, the bird sitting closely, Centennial Park. May 8, 1936, 2 vireo eggs and one fresh Cowbird egg, at the Knapp Farm club-house, Dr. Shaver. June 2, 1936, a fresh egg laid in a new nest before the vireos could lay, Centennial Park. The vireos deserted.

Warbling Vireo, May 24, 1933, a nest examined by Crook and the writer held 4 vireo eggs and one of the Cowbird; all were well incubated, but the Cowbird egg most advanced.

On July 9, 1935, Mrs. Lasky banded a young cowbird in the care of Warbling vireos. (see *The Migrant*, 1935, p. 61.)

Yellow Warbler, May 3, 1922, 2 warbler eggs and one of the Cowbird, all well incubated, but the Cowbird egg most advanced. No attempt made to cover the Cowbird egg, as this warbler often does. May 4, 1924, 2 warbler eggs plus a fresh Cowbird egg. The latter was removed and when revisited May 11, it held 4 warbler eggs.

Prairie Warbler, May 17, 1925, 3 warbler eggs plus one Cowbird all fresh, A. F. Ganier, Pinhook creek. May 24, 1930, 3 warbler eggs and one of Cowbird, all fresh, Couchville Pike, Crook.

Louisiana Water-Thrush, April 28, 1928, 3 eggs plus one of the Cowbird, incubated 5 days. Stewarts Ferry Pike, found by AFG, now in Vaughn collection.

Maryland Yellow-throat, May 11, 1920, 3 eggs plus one of the Cowbird, all fresh; bird sitting. HCM. May 31, 1934, 3 eggs plus one of the Cowbird, incubated 5 days, Montague, HSVaughn. June 10, 1936, pair with well grown young Cowbird, in lot on Long Blvd., no young Yellow-throats; still present June 17.

Orchard Oriole, June 13, 1933, a pair with a young Cowbird just out of nest, no young Orioles, Centennial Park.

Summer Tanager, a nest found completed, but empty May 23, 1920; on May 30 held 3 eggs of the Tanager and one of the Cowbird; deserted, but showed a trace of incubation.

Cardinal, May 1, 1932, 3 eggs plus one of the Cowbird, showed trace of incubation; Radnor Lake, Compton Crook. In the aggregate local students have examined thousands of Cardinal nests with only one Cowbird record, indicating how very rarely this species is parasitized.

Indigo Bunting, May 19, 1918, 2 eggs plus one of the Cowbird. Latter removed and found to be fresh. Two buntings left the nest June 8. Herman Wright and Harry Monk. June 22, 1922, 3 eggs plus one Cowbird, incubated 5 days, Loves Hill, AFG. June 14, 1936, 3 eggs plus one of the Cowbird, all fresh, Rivercliff, Stones River, A. F. Ganier.

Towhee, May 24, 1930, 3 eggs plus one of the Cowbird, Couchville Pike, Crook. April 19, 1932, a nest which held 3 eggs of Towhee on 11th and 13th, on this date held also one of the Cowbird. Later the nest was destroyed. Found by George Woodring in Belair Avenue area.

NASHVILLE, TENN., June, 1936.

THE PEACE MESSENGERS

BY MRS. JOHN H. EAGLE

During the spring of 1918, while working in my garden, I noticed a pair of Mourning Doves on top of the little red brick church next door to us. The male bird, as I supposed, was perched on the very peak of the roof and was sending out his crooning call "*s-o-o-n, s-o-o-n, s-o-o-n*", while his mate apparently was feeding, mincingly picking her way up and down the steep roof, peering into the crevices and angles about the chimney as though in search of something. As this little performance was staged at frequent intervals for several days in succession—the doves meanwhile becoming more familiar and unafraid, I decided they must be prospecting for a building site or even building a nest. After a bit of patient watching it was discovered that they had begun a nest and that it was located where it was least expected to be—high up under the eaves, in the gutter of our house. I had thought that nothing less daring than an English Sparrow would undertake so hazardous an enterprise.

It so happened that their chosen location was directly over the vacant room of our soldier-boy, so at once I adopted them as my own particular peace messengers. Peace, but at what price I thought! Peace from war or that other, the peace of the poppy fields?

The building went on uninterrupted until I judged the nest was nearing completion, when a heavy rain fell and it was washed out. Naturally, I felt it was all over for them—and me. But in a few days the crooning from the house-top was resumed and the building in the gutter was begun all over again, only again to meet the same misfortune as the first. The thin nest was promptly undertaken once more and soon finished. Incubation was evidently in process when the worst wind and rain storm of the season occurred. This time I hurried out to see how my brave bird friends were faring. Already,

the little "ark" was being lifted on the water until the dove's back could be seen above the gutter's edge and as it rocked and swayed with each gust of wind—driven rush of water, the brooding mother stretched her slender neck turned her head from side to side in quick alarm, but each time settling back again as the water receded.

So long as I was able to stand the storm myself, she stayed steadfastly at her post of duty. But next morning I missed the prophetic "*s-o-o-n, s-o-o-n, s-o-o-n*". The nest and its precious contents had been swept out by the storm. At such a time, the tears of motherhood were never far from the surface and I wept over the little tragedy.

Imagine my delighted surprise, a few days later to find the doves crooning and building again in the same location. A period of dry weather set in at this time and the fourth nest was finished and the little doves hatched out in due time. From day to day I watched the parent birds fluttering over the nest, brooding and feeding their young. One morning I looked out as usual but the little family had moved out, for by now the young were able to fly and of course they never returned to the gutter under the eaves.

The boy came back to his room under the nest. Certainly the doves had nothing to do with his safe return, but they did furnish me a kind of comfort, and watching their persistence and courageous battle against odds and their final victory over a seemingly hopeless situation, did give me hope and courage to "carry on" during that long drawn-out summer of suspense and heartache. *No, I couldn't kill a dove.*

SPARTA, TENN., March, 1936.

SPRING BIRDS OF CHATTANOOGA

By BRADFORD TORREY*

*(NOTE:—The following list of birds, observed in and about Chattanooga from April 27 to May 18, 1894, is taken from Mr. Torrey's "Spring Notes from Tennessee," published two years later. Since this book has long been out of print and is only available in certain libraries, it has been thought worth while to re-publish the list in this publication. Mr. Torrey, who died in 1912, at the age of 69, was a naturalist-author with a thorough knowledge of ornithology. He was a native of Massachusetts and made visits during the winter to southern states to gather material for his writings. Thus it was he came to spend the three weeks at Chattanooga, employing all of his time with trips afield studying the birds, viewing the mountain scenery and conversing with the rural people whom he met on his rambles. His biographer *(The Auk*, 1913, p. 157) says that "he combined to a very unusual extent the scientific with the aesthetic habit of mind." In this connection, we hope to publish in a future issue, one or two of the charming chapters from his book. Although the observations were made a number of years ago, they doubtless apply equally well today to the bird-life of the environs of Chattanooga. About 75 of the birds listed are summer residents of the area, the other 18 were migrating transients. The names are reproduced as published in 1896 and, as evidence of the instability of scientific names, it is interesting to note that 29 of the 93 given have been changed since that time.—EDITOR.)

Green Heron. *Ardea virescens.*—A single individual seen from a car window. No other water birds were observed except three or four ducks and a single wader, all upon the wing and unidentified.

Bob White. Quail. Partridge. *Colinus virginianus.*—Common.

Ruffed Grouse. "Pheasant." *Bonasa umbellus.*—Heard drumming on Walden's Ridge.

Carolina Dove. Mourning Dove. *Zenaidura macroura.*—A small number seen.

Turkey Vulture. Turkey Buzzard. *Cathartes aura.*—Common.

Black Vulture. Carrion Crow. *Catharista atrata.*—Two birds seen.
Red-tailed Hawk. *Buteo borealis.*—One bird seen from Walden's Ridge.
Sparrow Hawk. *Falco sparverius.*—One bird, on Walden's Ridge.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo. *Coccyzus americanus.*—Common. First noticed April 29.
Black-billed Cuckoo. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus.*—Seen twice on Lookout Mountain, May 7 and 8, and once on Walden's Ridge, May 12.
Belted Kingfisher. *Ceryle alcyon.*—A single bird heard on Walden's Ridge.
Hairy Woodpecker. *Dryobates villosus.*—My notes record seven birds. No attempt was made to determine their specific or sub-specific identity, but they are presumed to have been *D. villosus*, not *D. villosus audubonii.*
Downy Woodpecker. *Dryobates pubescens.*—A single bird was heard (not seen) on Walden's Ridge,—a noticeable reversal of the usual relative commonness of this species and the preceding.
Red-cockaded Woodpecker. *Dryobates borealis.*—Found only at Chickamauga, on Snodgrass Hill, in long-leaved pines—two or three birds.
Pileated Woodpecker. "Logcock." *Ceophlaeus pileatus.*—Said to be common on Walden's Ridge, where I heard its flicker-like shout.
Red-headed Woodpecker. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus.*—One seen near Missionary Ridge and one at Chickamauga. The scarcity of this bird, and the absence of the red-bellied and the yellow-bellied, were among the surprises of my visit.
Flicker. Golden-winged Woodpecker. *Colaptes auratus.*—Not common. Three birds were seen at Chickamauga, and it was occasional on Walden's Ridge, where I listed it five days of the seven.
Whippoorwill. *Antrostomus vociferus.*—Undoubtedly common. I heard it only on Walden's Ridge, the only place where I went into the woods after dark.
Nighthawk. *Chordeiles virginianus.*—Common.
Chimney Swift. *Chaetura pelagica.*—Abundant.
Ruby-throated Humming-bird. *Trochilus colubris.*—Common in the forests of Walden's Ridge. Seen but twice elsewhere. First seen April 28.
Kingbird. *Tyrannus tyrannus.*—Seen but three times—nine specimens in all. First seen April 29.
Crested Flycatcher. *Myiarchus crinitus.*—Noticed daily, with two exceptions.
Phœbe. *Sayornis phœbe.*—Common on Lookout Mountain and Walden's Ridge. Not seen elsewhere.
Wood Pewee. *Contopus virens.*—Very common. Much the most numerous member of the family. Present in good force April 27, and gathering nest materials April 29.
Acadian Flycatcher. Green-crested Flycatcher. *Empidonax virescens.*—Common.
Blue Jay. *Cyanocitta cristata.*—Scarce (for the blue jay), and not seen on Walden's Ridge!
Crow. *Corvus americanus.*—Apparently much less common than in Eastern Massachusetts.
Bobolink. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus.*—A small flock seen, and heard singing, April 27.
Orchard Oriole. *Icterus spurius.*—Common, but not found on Walden's Ridge.
Crow Blackbird. *Quiscalus quiscula?*—Seen on sundry occasions in the valley country, but specific distinction not made out. Both forms—*Q. quiscula* and *Q. quiscula æneus*—are found in Tennessee. See Dr. Fox's List of Birds found in Roane County, Tennessee. "The Auk," vol. iii, p. 315. My own list of the Icteridæ is remarkable for its omissions, especially of the cowbird, the red-winged blackbird (which, however, I am pretty certain that I saw on the wing) and the meadow lark.
House Sparrow. English Sparrow. *Passer domesticus.*—Distressingly superabundant in the city and its suburbs.
Goldfinch. *Spinus tristis.*—Abundant. Still in flocks.
White-crowned Sparrow. *Zonotrichia leucophrys.*—Seen but once (May 1), two birds, in the national cemetery.

White-throated Sparrow. *Zonotrichia albicollis.*—Common. Still present on Walden's Ridge (in two places) May 13. Sang very little.

Chipping Sparrow. Doorstep Sparrow. *Spizella socialis.*—Common.

Field Sparrow. *Spizella pusilla.*—Common.

Bachman's Sparrow. *Peucœa œstivalis bachmanii.*—Common. One of the best of singers.

Chewink. Towhee. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus.*—Rather common. Much less numerous than I should have expected from the nature of the country.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. *Habia ludoviciana.*—A single female, May 11.

Indigo-bird. *Passerina cyanea.*—Very abundant. For the first time I saw this tropical-looking beauty in flocks.

Scarlet Tanager. *Piranga erythromelas.*—Common on the mountains, but seemingly rare in the valley.

Summer Tanager. *Piranga rubra.*—Common throughout.

Purple Martin. *Progne subis.*—Common.

Rough-winged Swallow. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis.*—A few birds seen.

Red-eyed Vireo. *Vireo olivaceus.*—Common. One of the species listed every day.

Yellow-throated Vireo. *Vireo flavifrons.—Common.* Seen or heard every day except April 27.

White-eyed Vireo. *Vireo noveboracensis.*—Abundant. Heard every day.

Black-and-white Creeper. *Mniotilta varia.*—Very common.

Blue-winged Warbler. *Helminthophila pinus.*—One bird seen at Chickamauga, and a pair on Missionary Ridge.

Golden-winged Warbler. *Helminthophila chrysoptera.*—Common, especially in the broken woods north of the city.

Parula Warbler. Blue Yellow-backed Warbler. *Compsothlypis americana.*—Only on Walden's Ridge.

Cape May Warbler. *Dendroica tigrina.*—One bird seen on Cameron Hill, and a small company on Lookout Mountain—April 27, and May 7 and 8.

Yellow Warbler. Golden Warbler. *Dendroica œstiva.*—Common, but not observed on Walden's Ridge.

Black-throated Blue Warbler. *Dendroica cœrulescens.*—Common, April 27 to May 14.

Myrtle Warbler. Yellow-rumped Warbler. *Dendroica coronata.*—Noted April 27 and 28, and May 7 and 8.

Magnolia Warbler. *Dendroica maculosa.*—Not uncommon, May 1 to 12.

Cerulean Warbler. *Dendroica cœrulea.*—One bird, a male in song, on Lookout Mountain.

Bay-breasted Warbler. *Dendroica striata.*—Common to May 13.

Black-poll Warbler. *Dendroica striata.*—Common to May 13.

Blackburnian Warbler. *Dendroica blackburniæ.*—Seven birds—May 1 to 18.

Yellow-throated Warbler. *Dendroica dominica. (Albilora?)*—Found only at Chickamauga (Snodgrass Hill), where it seemed to be common.

Black-throated green Warbler. *Dendroica virens.*—Common.

Pine Warbler. *Dendroica vigorsii.*—Not numerous but found in appropriate places.

Palm Warbler. *Dendroica palmarum.*—The specific—or sub-specific—identity of this bird was not certainly determined, but I judged the specimens—seen on four dates, April 29 to May 11—to be as above given, rather than *D. palmarum hypochrusea.*

Prairie Warbler. *Dendroica discolor.*—Very common.

Oven-bird. *Seiurus aurocapillus.*—Common on Lookout Mountain and Walden's Ridge. Seen but once in the lower country.

Louisiana Water-thrush. *Seiurus motacilla.*—A few birds seen on Walden's Ridge.

Kentucky Warbler. *Geothlypis formosa.*—Very common, and in places very unlike.

Maryland Yellow-throat. *Geothlypis trichas.*—Common.
Yellow-breasted Chat. *Icteria virens.*—Very common.
Hooded Warbler. *Sylvania mitrata.*—Common, especially along the woodland streams on Walden's Ridge.
Wilson's Blackcap. *Sylvania pusilla.*—A single bird on Walden's Ridge, May 12, in free song.
Canadian Warbler. *Sylvania canadensis.*—Seen on three dates—May 6, 11, and 12.
Redstart. *Setophaga ruticilla.*—Common. Not seen after May 14.
Mocking-bird. *Mimus polyglottos.*—Rare. Not found on the mountains.
Catbird. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis.*—Very common, both in the city and in the country round about.
Brown Thrasher. *Harporhynchus rufus.*—Common.
Carolina Wren. Mocking Wren. *Thryothorus ludovicianus.*—Common.
Bewick's Wren. *Thryothorus bewickii.*—Not common. Seen only on Missionary Ridge.
White-breasted Nuthatch. *Sitta carolinensis.*—Common at Chickamauga and on Walden's Ridge. A single bird noticed on Lookout Mountain.
Tufted Titmouse. *Parus bicolor.*—Common.
Carolina Chickadee. *Parus carolinensis.*—Common.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. *Polioptila cœrulea.*—Common.
Wood Trush. *Turdus mustelinus.*—Very common. A bird with its beak full of nest materials was seen April 29, at the base of Missionary Ridge.
Wilson's Trush. Veery. *Turdus fuscescens.*—Rare.
Grey-cheeked Thrush. *Turdus aliciæ*, or *T. aliciæ bicknelli.*—Two birds, May 2 and 13.
Swainson's Trush. Olive-backed Thrush. *Turdus ustulatus swainsonii.*—In good numbers and free song. Seen on four dates, the latest being May 12.
Robin. *Merula migratoria.*—Five birds in the national cemetery, April 29.
Bluebird. *Sialia sialis.*—Common. Young birds out of the nest, April 28.

THE ROUND TABLE

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: The Purple Martin was again "first arrival" this year, being seen in Memphis on March 7 by Scouts Jackson and Clayton. Mr. L. G. Guth at Whitehaven, just south of town, reported Martins at his box on March 2. At Lakeview, Miss., on the 15th we noted for the first time, Vesper Sparrow, 3; L. Yellowlegs, 5; Pectoral Sandpiper, 9; and Blue Geese were heard passing over at dusk. McCamey heard at least 200 of the latter from the uptown bluff on the 19th. Shovellers were first noted March 8 at Lakeview. An American Bittern and an Amer. Egret were observed there on March 22. On the 28th, Pond and Clayton found a female Bufflehead on Mud Lake. Black-crowned Night Herons were noted by Pond on April 10 and the same four were seen by me the next day, and one by McCamey on the Field Day, May 3. King Rails were, for some reason, not seen until May 3, about six weeks after usual records. Soras were fairly common on that day.—Previous to this year our only record for the Virginia Rail was one in the Memphis Zoo. On April 25, independently of each other and at separate "barpits", Harold Elphingstone and John Pond each saw a Virginia Rail. I was unable to locate it myself, but a week later John found another one for me, farther west along the same pit. It was there the next afternoon—May 3—and that one bird received a lot of attention from novice and veteran alike as nearly every member remaining for the afternoon trip of the Field Day had a chance to observe it closely. Four Soras in quick succession had been found when the Virginia was located and took up a place of partial concealment

among the willows. Later an unafraid Prairie Marsh Wren passed along the edge of the willows, running the gauntlet of eyes. A Purple Gallinule was found and Pond recorded a second Virginia Rail for the day.—Shorebirds were less common than usual this year although some likely stopping-off places were available. Only a few Greater Yellowlegs, Least (and ?) Sandpipers, and Spotted Sandpipers were seen with Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpipers, and Pectoral Sandpipers fairly common, the last species less so than usual. Wilson's Snipe were common; Semipalmated Plovers, generally fairly common, were not recorded this spring.—The highway pit, where Pied-billed Grebes have been recorded as nesting in 1932, 1933 and 1935, dried up this spring before nesting season. Some of the other pits failed to yield signs of their nests but on May 17, R. B. Humphries found two Grebe nests and a Least Bittern nest.—No Upland Plover were seen at Lakeview on March 22 or at Lake Forest on March 25, but on our first visit to the old Bry's Airport (inside city) on March 25, we found 11 present there. We saw them frequently the remainder of the month and from 2 to 5 were present continuously up to April 23. (On April 5 and 7, 30 and 18 Pectorals, respectively, were found there.) On April 10, Pond found two of the Plovers along the levee at Lakeview; five were seen there the next day and Whittemore reported ten on April 13. On the 10th, I heard one passing over Overton Park.—On April 10th and 11th, four Black-crowned Night Herons were seen at Lakeview—Broad-winged Hawks were regularly noted between April 9th and 13th and through the 24th.—One or two Veeries were heard singing in Overton Park from April 28 through mid-May.—The House Wren, with not more than two records for any previous spring, was noted in Overton Park on April 14, 20, 21, 24 (two), and 25; a few were found singing.—A Lincoln's Sparrow was present in my yard, April 14 and 15, singing continuously at times. An Orange-crowned Warbler was observed on April 5 in Overton Park. Mourning Warblers were reported several times by Pond and Wallace and a Connecticut Warbler on April 23, by Pond.—BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD AT LAKEVIEW, MISS.: On March 8, 1936, I noted several blackbirds at the grassy edge of a small pool of water, out in the open from the willow covered "bar-pits". They were slightly smaller than grackles, three being male Brewer's Blackbirds and one being a female with the diagnostic dark eye. They were examined through 8X binoculars for several minutes. The next night in the blackbird roost in the low willows, I found another female, observing it with a spotlight at less than five feet. We were not able to capture any of this species but did band a few Rusty Blackbirds, male and female. Two males were chiefly purplish on the head but proved too small for Brewer's. This is the first record of Brewer's Blackbird for the Memphis area.—BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis.

A BROWN PELICAN AT MEMPHIS: The Horn Lake territory to the southwest of Memphis continues to yield unusual records. On May 17, a cool, cloudy day with frequent showers, Wendell Whittemore, Wm. Moore and the writer arrived at the northern end of the lake (which is in Mississippi) shortly after daybreak. Just as we came in sight of the water, a great, bulky bird, with long, broad wings and apparently an immense head, glided past about 50 feet above the near side of the lake. We ran to the water's edge to get a better view, and watched the great dark bird as it circled at a distance of

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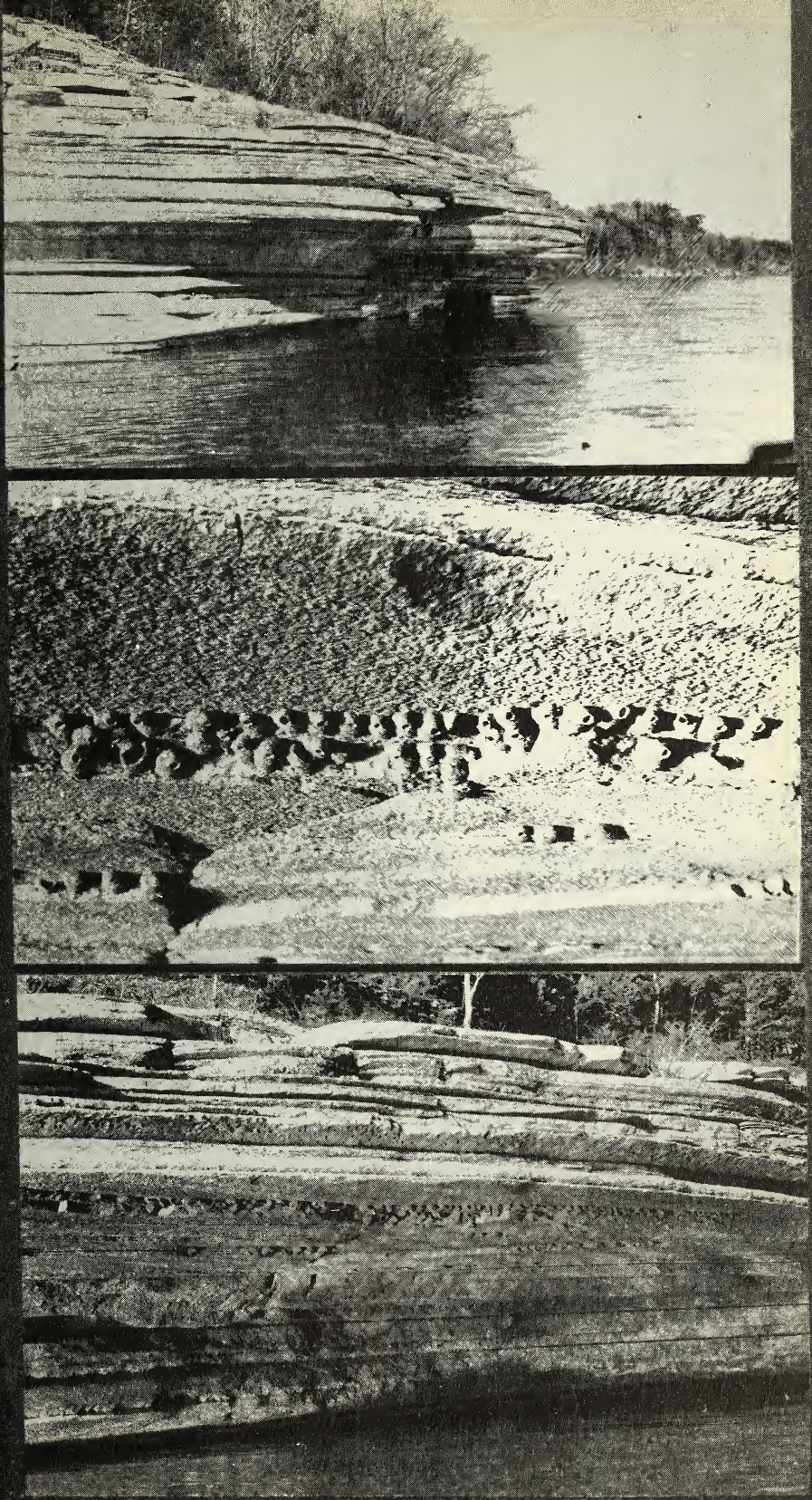
OUR ILLUSTRATIONS:—On the opposite page is shown a portrait of a Crested Flycatcher at the entrance cavity to its nest, as described in note by Dr. Pickering in The Round Table. On page 40 are shown Cliff Swallows and their nests at Dover, Tenn., on the Cumberland River and on page 41, their nests and nesting site on the Tennessee River, as described in the article by Messrs. Ganier and Weakley in this issue. On page 42 are shown Spring Field Day groups of the T. O. S. at Nashville and at Knoxville, further mention of which will be found among the news items on another page.



Group at Annual Spring Field Day, Nashville. May 10, 1936

Group at Knoxville T.O.S. Annual Spring Bird Census. May 3

75 yards, and came to rest on the lake. After resting motionless a few minutes, it took off again, and commenced circling, about 30 feet above the water. In flight, the bird progressed by flapping its great wings a few times, then sailing for a while; it carried its long neck drawn in against its body, the large dark pouch resting comfortably on the lower part of the neck. It showed a dark brown color on the under parts, dusky silvery gray on the back and top of wings. Underneath the wings was a light brown, showing much darker, almost black on the primaries. The great bill, distinctly showing its large pouch, was very dark. The top of the head was silvery white, and this color extended in a narrow stripe down the side of the neck, stopping at the breast. The front and back of the neck were brown, the back lighter than the front. Suddenly the bird closed its wings and dropped to the lake with a tremendous splash. Shaking itself as it rose from the water, it pointed its bill upward, apparently swallowed a fish, and rising above the trees, vanished behind them to the north. Without question, the bird was a Brown Pelican *(Pelicanus occidentalis)*.

An hour later when we waded to the edge of a small lake a mile to the north (in Tennessee), we found a Pelican, probably the same one, sailing low over the lake. As we watched, it glided into a large dead tree, breaking off a few limbs trying to light; it finally found one strong enough to hold it, and settled itself comfortably. It remained in this tree, almost without moving, for more than an hour, while we were walking around the lake. Then we left, and it was not seen again. The nesting range of this bird is on the coasts of Louisiana, Florida and South Carolina, according to Chapman's Handbook. They are reported to stray northward after breeding; so this was probably a visitor from a coastal colony where the birds nest in December.

Several other interesting birds were noted on this trip, chiefly in the barrow-pits along the levee south of Horn Lake. Four Least Bitterns were seen in the willows, and one of their nests was found by another party; it held 4 eggs. Two American Bitterns were flushed from the same place, and two more carefully observed later as they flapped back and forth over us, about two miles from the first place. King Rails and Sora Rails were flushed occasionally from the edges of the pits, and a Black-crowned Night Heron was observed at close range as he perched in the willow thickets a short distance from the bank. Least Terns occasionally flew over, and two Blue-winged Teal once whistled by. Prairie Marsh Wrens were often seen in the high grass bordering the pits. At the highway pits we had an excellent comparison as a Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs flew and fed together for a few minutes. The woods north of Horn Lake were full of Warblers, among them several Ceruleans and a Canada.—FRANK M'CAMEY, Memphis.

NOTE: The Brown Pelican is a new bird for the Tennessee list.—EDITOR.

A GOLDEN PLOVER NEAR MEMPHIS: On April 11, 1936, near Lakeview, Mississippi, a few miles south of Memphis, I observed a bird that I am reasonably sure was of this species *(Pluvialis dominica dominica)*. With me were George Clayton, Gene Wallace and Jim Vardaman. It was not wading in the water with the other shore birds but kept to the marshy ground nearby. Our attention was first drawn to him because, as he flushed with a flock of 75 Pectoral Sandpipers and 8 Lesser Yellowlegs, he showed a complete absence of light color in the tail and of outstanding wing stripe. The next time he flushed and flew overhead, we discovered that he had no wing stripe where had been a slight appearance of one at first because the primaries were slightly lighter than the brownish secondaries and tertials. His bill was pure black, short, and of plover shape. His dark grey legs were slightly shorter than those of a nearby Lesser Yellowlegs. The top of his head was slightly darker than his forehead, cheeks or nape of neck, giving the appearance of a dark crown or cap. The plumage was brownish above with a golden tinge, buffy below with streaks of a faintly darker color on the breast. At one time I approached to within 15 feet and observed that the golden appearance was caused by gold spots on the tips of the upper feathers. We watched his

movements for more than half an hour and at intervals of two or three minutes each, we observed him as closely as 15 feet. The Golden Plover has not yet been recorded from Tennessee. Its spring migration is said to follow the plains states, some distance west.—JOHN POND, Memphis.

NOTE: Mr. A. C. Bent, in U. S. N. M. Bulletin 146, p. 181, says: "Most of the birds we see here in the spring are in full adult nuptial plumage, but I have seen quite a number of birds, some taken on the breeding grounds, that showed, more or less, old, worn, winter plumage; these may be young birds in their first nuptial plumage. . . . The prenuptial molt of the body plumage begins in March and lasts until May in some individuals."—EDITOR.

SUMMER TANAGER BEHAVIOR: A pair of Summer Tanagers have spent the past three years with us, building their nests near the house and raising two broods each year. These birds became our very close friends. We placed food on our porch for them daily, and they frequently came for it while we were sitting on the porch, and between bites, would pause long enough to chirp a few words of thanks. Many times the female would come within a foot of us and eat without any indication whatever of fear.

The most interesting experience with them, however, was after they had raised their first brood and it was time for the building of a new home for the second family. Their first home had been near the house, but they began building the second on a limb just a few feet above the porch swing. The first day they both worked diligently. They both appeared supremely happy and contented, and uttered sweet little words of love to each other in the most tender tones. The next day, we noticed the female was working alone, with no help at all from her gayly colored mate. That afternoon, we saw them perched on a wire, and from all indications, they were having a real "family row". The little tender phrases of the day before had changed to the most raucous tones. The "spat" continued for some time, and operations on the new home ceased. The following morning, they both resumed work on their new home on the site of the old one. All seemed to be well again, since "papa" had his way. Whether this idea of the superiority of the "stronger sex" originated with the birds or with human beings, it seems to be prevalent in both realms, and concession to this idea often becomes necessary in order to bring about a happy, harmonious home.—MIRIAM A. (MRS. T. I.) KLYCE, Memphis.

A NORTH MISSISSIPPI HERONRY: A few miles east of the Mississippi River and just south of Lake Washington in Washington County, lies a shallow body of water, of several hundred acres, called the P. L. Mann Lake. The Reedland quadrangle map (1) shows it to be a low area more than a mile across. The water is quite shallow and is covered with buttonbush, willow and cypress; very few other trees being found in the lake proper. It is admirably suited for a heronry, being inaccessible to the average marauder. Food is plentiful in nearby Lake Washington and in small neighboring sloughs. This study was begun during the month of May, 1935, and a preliminary report was made and published along with reports of other field work of the Department of Biology. (2) Several visits have been made to this lake this spring.

The first 1936 visit was on March 20, before the trees began budding. We discovered a colony of Ward's Great Blue Heron *(Ardea herodias wardi)* nesting in the tall cypress. We counted fifty-three trees with a total of two hundred and fifty-seven nests. Three weeks later we returned to make moving pictures of the colony. Some of the boys climbed to the nests and found most of them with young birds. There were only a few nests with eggs. This second visit also revealed many American Egret *(Casmerodius albus egretta)*. They were nesting in large colonies in the small willows and button bushes. These birds are so numerous that it is impossible to accurately count the birds or nests. A few Little Blue Herons *(Florida caerulea caerulea)* were seen, but no nests were found on this date.

On May 8, we made another visit to the heronry. Our search revealed many Little Blues, a few Snowy Egrets *(Egretta thula thula)*, and Water

Turkeys *(Anhinga anhinga)* were numerous. Some of the latter were nesting in the cypress trees and even using vacated nests of the Great Blues. Their eggs were collected from the same nests from which we had previously collected Great Blue eggs.

On May 24 the writer accompanied Mr. Ben Coffey, of Memphis, and a group of Boy Scouts to the Lake. The group banded over one thousand birds. Among them were each of the species mentioned above and also the Florida Gallinule *(Gallinula chlorupas cachinans)*, the last species being reported to me by Mr. Coffey, who discovered a nest containing four eggs and three newly hatched young. Upon our last visit (June 6) we banded several more Little Blues and Snowys. One specimen of the Black-crowned Night Heron *(Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli)*, apparently about five weeks old, was captured and banded. One nest containing four young of Least Bittern *(Ixobrychus exilis exilis)*, and another with seven nestlings of Little Green Heron, were captured and banded. The Purple Gallinule *(Ionornis martinica)* was also found here but no nesting record was established.

All of these birds that were found in numbers seemed to have established definite nesting areas. The Great Blues were in the cypress trees; the American Egrets in the small willows and the buttonbush near the cypress trees; the Little Blues and Snowys in the smaller bushes and nearer the open lake; the Water Turkeys were in the cypress and the buttonbushes, but they were more secluded and higher than the Little Blues or Egrets. The tendency to occupy the trees is probably due to the constant shooting of these birds by the negroes for food. The owner of this property has been consulted and definite efforts will be made to protect the birds as long as they stay in this area. This study will continue this summer and probably through next nesting season.—R. L. CAYLOR, Delta State Teachers College, Cleveland, Miss.

((1) War Dept. map, U. S. Engr's Office, Vicksburg, Miss.; (2) *Biological Field Work, Bul. Delta State Teacher's College*, vol. XI, no. 3, 1935.)

NOTES—The above constitutes the most northerly nesting location of the Snowy Egret in the Mississippi valley, so far as I am able to learn.—EDITOR.

PROTECTING A ROBIN'S BROOD: We first noticed the Robin about the last of February, 1933, busy on the high shelf on which the grocer placed deliveries. This shelf was somewhat protected by a dead clematis vine which had grown upon a trellis. The nest finally took form and was a work of art; the foundation broad and flat then sloping upward to the cup-shaped cavity. Three blue eggs were laid. The grocery man was warned what we would do to him if he molested the nest so thence forward he left his packages on the floor while the Robins rented the shelf. One night after the three young were more than a week old, we heard a noisy commotion and immediately thought of our birds. I rushed to the door, flashed on the light on the porch and there beheld a great grey cat in the act of seizing a baby Robin. Without stopping to think how I might be scratched, I grasped the cat by its tail and with a mighty swing I pitched it out into the yard. Needless to say, I had something to remember the cat by for several days.

We then lifted the nest, birds and all and took it inside, placing it close to the breakfast room window. Early the next morning we heard them calling and the old birds "talking" to them so we placed the nest and young back on their shelf in order that the parents could resume feeding. The cat did not seem to notice them during the day. We did this every evening for four nights but on the fifth night they rebelled and it seemed we had young robins all over the house until they were captured. The next morning the nest and young were again placed on the shelf and through the day we saw that they were standing up, stretching their wings and taking notice generally. Before night they had flown. The following March, 1934, the Robins returned and again took possession of the shelf, building in almost the identical place as before. This time they were unmolested.—ALICE FOX, Clarksville, Tenn.

A CRESTED FLYCATCHER'S NEST: On page 39 of this issue will be found a portrait of a Crested Flycatcher sitting at the entrance of a cavity, in a small tree, which held its nest. On May 24, on our excursion to Dover, our group stopped our cars on the river bluff above Hayne's Lake and there at the edge of a small woodland, noticed a flycatcher that would not fly away. While observing it at close range, it presently flew to the cavity above mentioned and peered within. We immediately knew there must be a nest and later, with the aid of a small flashlight, saw that there were eggs. The cavity was only five feet above the ground, about fourteen inches deep, and since the tree was small, the little compartment was only about three inches across inside. We wondered how the bird, nearly nine inches long could make the many necessary trips to the bottom of the cavity and out again without damaging its plumage. The bird obligingly sat in its doorway while Mr. Ganier took the photo at a distance of five feet.—CHAS. F. PICKERING, M.D., Clarksville, Tenn.

SPRING MIGRATION AT CLARKSVILLE: The following record of spring arrivals, up to May 1st, was made at Clarksville by members of our local T. O. S. chapter. Purple Martin Feb. 25 (see note in March *Migrant);* Chipping Sparrow Feb. 29; Vesper Sparrow March 8; Brown Thrasher March 10; La. Water Thrush, Green Heron, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Black-and-white Warbler March 29; Chimney Swift March 30 (on April 12 we noted about 750 going to roost in a factory chimney); Barn Swallow and Rough-winged Swallow Apr. 5; White-eyed Vireo Apr. 6; Red-eyed Vireo Apr. 7; Philadelphia Vireo Apr. 13 (a rare bird but we believe our identity correct); Geese Apr. 13 (flock of 8 near sunset, flying in a straight line); Black-throated Green Warbler Apr. 11; Hooded and Prothonotary Warbler Apr. 12; Catbird Apr. 16; Warbling Vireo and Lark Sparrow Apr. 17; Wood Trush, Olive-backed Thrush, Crested Flycatcher, Sycamore and Yellow Warblers Apr. 19, Baltimore Oriole Apr. 21, Palm Warbler and Maryland Yellowthroat Apr. 22; Orchard Oriole, Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Prairie and Kentucky Warbers Apr. 23; Nighthawk Apr. 24; Summer Tanager and Redstart Apr. 25; Spotted Sandpiper Apr. 26; Indigo Bunting, Sora and Whippoorwill Apr. 26; Hummingbird Apr. 28; Blackpoll Warbler and Cliff Swallow Apr. 29; Ovenbird and Scarlet Tanager Apr. 30; Rose-breast Grosbeak and Greater Yellowlegs May 1.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, SR., Clarksville.

RECENT EAGLE OCCURRENCES: During the past winter and spring, 8 eagles have come to my attention as having been captured or killed in Tennessee. Of these, 5 were Golden Eagles and 3 were of the Bald species. Two of the latter were from West Tennessee and one, an immature trapped the last week in May, came from Sumner County near Portland. The Golden Eagles came from the region lying between the eastern Highland Rim and the Cumberland Plateau They are believed to nest in the sandstone escarpments which fringe the plateau and its gorges. Six of the above mentioned birds were sent to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park to be released there. Two of them were banded by Mrs. Laskey.—JOHN CALDWELL, State Dept. of Game and Fish, Nashville.

NOTE: When eagles are trapped by farmers it is usually claimed by them that they had been molesting pigs, lambs, kids or poultry. Formerly, the majority of them were killed but now, as a result of publicity in their behalf, most of them are being turned over to the Game and Fish Dept. The Goldens are then "deported" to the National Park and the Balds will be sent to Reelfoot Lake. One of the Goldens above mentioned was trapped in Moore County, near the Lincoln County line, on April 1st. A pair of these birds were seen near the same point on April 12 last year, one of them being killed. Eagles found far from suitable nesting sites at this season are believed to be roving, homeless birds.—EDITOR.

NOTES FROM NASHVILLE AREA: Two Tree Sparrows were found on Jan. 11, some miles from the one banded and reported by Mrs. Laskey on Jan. 21; these were the first we have recorded in some years.—On March 1, an assemblage of about 200 Black Vultures was found at Indian Lake near Hendersonville. The attractions were dead spoonbill catfish, 2 to 3 feet long, which had been killed by the freezing solid of the shallow end of the lake during the severe winter. No Bald Eagles and only 3 Turkey Vultures were present.—Doves were very scarce during the past winter so a flock of 30, on a nearby burned over sedge field, were noted with interest.—Another sight on the above date was that of a Red-tailed Hawk being "teased" by a flock of several hundred Starlings. As he soared along they would rise above him, then suddenly dart downward enmasse, completely enveloping him as they passed. Whether the bolder ones struck him or not I could not tell, but as they swept by, he kept up a rapid beating of wings until he emerged from the cloud of birds. The performance was repeated dozens of times at intervals of about a minute and between attacks the hawk soared serenely along.—A picturesque nest of the Golden Eagle, which I found in Van Buren County last October, was re-visited on March 8 with all paraphenalia necessary to go over the cliff to the nesting ledge. I was accompanied on this trip by Messrs. G. R. Mayfield and H. O. Todd. We were somewhat disappointed to find that a Great-horned Owl had appropriated the nest and had laid two eggs, now well incubated. The eggs were collected.—The Barred Owls whose nest and eggs I reported last year on March 24, were not to be found this year; I strongly suspect a nearby "squatter" of having shot them, since I found a dead one in a hollow roosting tree not far away. Another pair, located last year, were found to have three well incubated eggs in their nest on March 15. As I approached the tree she flew across the river and was at once set upon by a half dozen Crows. After seemingly debating, between the frying pan and the fire, she flew directly back to the deep nesting cavity and dived headlong within.—One of the two pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks, previously reported nesting west of here in Cheatham County along the Turnbull River, was visited on May 31st and the female found sitting on 4 eggs. They were incubated about two weeks. This is an early date for them.—A Purple Gallinule was found on a trip to Coffee Co., ~~March~~ May 16-17. It was in a small marsh near Morrison and when flushed from the marsh grass, sought to hide by flying into the thick leaves of a small tree on the bank. This marsh is about 21 miles north of Goose Pond where I found a nest last year. Its nest was not found nor could I find the bitterns which nested here in 1935. A despoiled nest of the Knig Rail and many nests of the Redwing were in this 4-acre pond, now quite shallow, due to drouth. Wood Ducks were found at Sinking Pond, some miles south. I was unable to re-visit Goose Pond near Pelham.—My 13-year-old Cardinal and his mate of last year came through the hard winter in good condition and began a nest in the privet hedge on March 28. On April 18, incubation began on 3 eggs but the following morning the eggs were gone. The nest was undisturbed and I attribute the loss to Grackles. Two days later they began a nest close to the dining room window and on May 1, incubation began again. On the night of May 19, the 3 young, nearly grown, were stolen from the nest, either by Screech Owls or a cat. A cat trap "tastily" baited under the shrub, failed for lack of a patron.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville.

AN ALBINO NIGHTHAWK: On May 23, while out looking for birds, I came to a large rocky glade covered here and there with strips and patches of loose rock or short grass. It was the type of place at which Nighthawks like to nest, so I began to walk about to try to flush one. Presently a white bird flew up about fifteen feet ahead and alit on a fence post a few feet further on, permitting me to view it carefully with glasses. It was an albino Nighthawk, being pure white all over except that where the black markings usually are, these were ashy gray. Looking again at the spot from which the bird had flushed I found two eggs on the small loose rock of normal markings.—HENRY O. TODD, Murfreesboro.

MIGRATORY WATERFOWL ON THE WHEELER RESERVOIR: The Wheeler Dam, located just east of Florence, Alabama, while only fifty feet high, is creating of the Tennessee River a lake approximately 110 miles long, having a shoreline of some 1,130 miles. Obviously, therefore, it is a shallow-water lake, and hence its creation is being watched with great interest by those who, for one reason or another, are concerned with our migratory waterfowl. It was with keen anticipation, therefore, that I visited the Wheeler reservoir area between April 6 and 13, 1936, and a note on what I found is perhaps not out of order as indicating what may be expected once the water is more or less stabilized. To say that ducks were abundant is to put it mildly: Wheeler was black with them. So very abundant were they that nothing but an estimate could be attempted in order to get at their numbers. I saw one flock of Lesser Scaup ducks *(Nyroca affinis)* which extended from practically at my feet out across the lake in a long diagonal as far as the field of vision of an 8X binocular could reach; and this was only one of many flocks seen. I saw acres of coots. The species involved, and their approximate numbers, seen on April 7 alone, are as follows:

Lesser Scaup 50,000 to 75,000, Coot 25,000, Blue-winged Teal 1,000, Mallard 500, Black Duck 350, Baldpate 250, Pied-billed Grebe 150, and Lesser Snow Goose 74.

The last species named is of especial interest, for these birds *(Chen hyperborea hyperborea)* ordinarily migrate west of the Mississippi and were certainly not to be expected on Wheeler Lake. The number in this case is an actual count.—A. R. CAHN, Chief, Wildlife Unit, T.V.A., Knoxville.

THE 1936 WARBLER MIGRATION: The warm dry spring of 1936 seemed to make some difference in the numbers present of certain species of warblers. My daily records show that the Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Chestnut-sided, Tennessee and Canada Warblers were less common than usual. The Tennessee Warbler in particular being much rarer and less noisy than in recent years. The Blackburnian, the Cape May and the Magnolia Warblers were seen in greater numbers than usual. The sixteen species of warblers known to nest in the Nashville area do not seem to vary much from past years; if any difference, the balance is in favor of larger numbers.—G. R. MAYFIELD, Nashville.

NOTES ON WOODCOCK, GROUSE AND TURKEY: A nest of the Woodcock was found on March 13thin Williamson County. The parent bird was sitting on four eggs at the time and was so gentle that she permitted herself to be touched. A considerable number of Ruffed Grouse have been noted during the past season. These were in White, Van Buren and Fentress Counties while others were reported from Putnam, Cumberland and Grundy. It is probable that these birds are more common than we think, at least in this Plateau region. Fifteen bunches of Wild Turkeys, totalling about 35 pair, were located in Van Buren County during the winter. This county is heavily wooded, thinly populated, and contains the new Falls Creek Park of 7500 acres.—JOHN CALDWELL, State Dept. of Game and Fish, Nashville.

A LATE GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER IN THE CUMBERLANDS: A male Golden-winged Warbler *(Vermivora chrysoptera)* in perfect plumage and full song remained in one small field in a deep hollow near Stamp's Hollow, Putnam County, Tenn., from May 19, 1935, to May 26, 1935. The situation was ideal for nesting. The bird sang continuously from the same perch on the first date above, and on May 21. On May 26, however, he was roving about, and sung in an adjacent field as well as from his previous perch. No female was ever seen or heard. From one and one-half to three hours were spent in the vicinity on each visit. No visit was possible after May 26, so it is not known whether or not the bird remained for the summer. The lateness of the date would so indicate.—COMPTON CROOK, Western Reserve Univ., Cleveland, Ohio.

SPRING MIGRATION AT KNOXVILLE: The present season has not been far from the average in relation to migration. The earlier arrivals were somewhat erratic, notably the Purple Martin and the Chipping Sparrow; and likewise our arrival dates for some of the later migrants are "out of line" because in our study of special subjects we more or less neglected to comb the best territories for warblers. The transient list for the winter and spring season is quite varied. The construction of Norris Lake has attracted unusual numbers of waterbirds to this section of the state. Normally three or four species of ducks totalling twenty or twenty-five individuals was to us an unusual find, yet Norris Lake during the second week in April was the resting place for a very large number and variety of water birds. (See article elsewhere by Jas. Trent, Jr.—Ed.) A few Robins and Red-wing Blackbirds were locally present throughout January and February.

We have recorded the following arrivals: Purple Grackle (in large flocks) February 26, Purple Martin February 28 (observed in two localities about six miles apart), Brown Thrasher, Savannah Sparrow and Chipping Sparrow, March 8; Pine Warbler, March 21; Louisiana Water Thrush, March 28; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, March 28, Black and White Warbler, March 28. Also the Cowbird and Rough-wing Swallow on the same date. Tree Swallow, March 29. On April 4 the Blue-headed and Yellow-throated Vireos and the Black-throated Green Warbler. We recorded the Green Heron on April 5 and the Barn Swallow for April 8. The Wood Trush, April 9; and the next day we found the Lesser Yellowlegs and the Bachman and Grasshopper Sparrows. Chimney Swift, April 12; Yellow-throated and Philadelphia Vireos, April 13; Scarlet and Summer Tanager, April 14; Hummingbird, White Eyed and Warbling Vireos, the Maryland Yellowthroat and Yellow Warbler appeared on April 15; Crested Flycatcher April 16; Redstart on April 18; Blackburnian Warbler, April 19; Orchard Oriole, April 20. Other birds recorded in April are: King Rail, 22; Red-eyed Vireo, 22; The Catbird and Blue-wing Warbler, 24; Baltimore Oriole, Indigo Bunting, Cerulean and Orange-crowned Warblers, 25; on the 26th Greater Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Nighthawk, Kingbird, Wood Pewee, Bobolink, Ovenbird, Northern Water Thrush, Worm-eating Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Palm Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Hooded Warbler and the Chat. May records are: Veery, May 2; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, May 3; others on May 3 are, Black-billed Cuckoo, Acadian Flycatcher, Olive-back Thrush, and the following warblers; Bay-breast, Blackpoll, Black-throated Blue, Chestnut-sided, Cape May, Magnolia, Parula and Prothonotary. The Tennessee Warbler and the Dickcissel were recorded May 17.—W. M. WALKER, Knoxville.

A MAY LIST FROM KNOXVILLE: On May 3, the annual spring census was taken in the vicinity of the Island Home Sanctuary, north of Knoxville, by the local T. O. S. Chapter and visitors. A total of 103 species was listed during the day. Showers and a drizzling rain made the warblers more active than usual. The list follows: Green Heron, Scaup Duck, Black Vulture, Sparrow Hawk, Black-billed Cuckoo, Bob-white, Kildeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barn Owl, Screech Owl, Chuck-wills-widow, Whip-poor-will, Night Hawk, Chimney Swift, Hummingbird, Kingfisher, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Flicker, Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Wood Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Purple Martin, Barn Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Blue Jay, Crow, Tufted Titmouse, Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Brown Thrasher, Mockingbird, Catbird, Wood Thrush, Veery, Olive-backed Thrush, Robin, Blue Bird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Red-eyed Vireo, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Sycamore Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Oven

Bird, Louisiana Water Thrush, Kentucky Warbler, Maryland Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, Canadian Warbler, Redstart, Cowbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Meadowlark, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Purple Grackle, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, English Sparrow, Goldfinch, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Towhee, Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Migrant Shrike and King Rail.—H. P. IJAMS, Knoxville.

PRAIRIE HORNED LARK NESTING IN N-E TENN.: The scientific name of the Prairie Horned Lark, *Otocoris alpestris praticola*, when translated is, "The bird with the tufted ears of the alpine meadows." In America the Prairie Horned Lark is one of the birds that has to some extent changed its habitat as man-made conditions come to suit its desires. Originally a bird of the northern prairie, it comes now to Tennessee to make its home throughout the year. A ground loving, running bird, it occurs in flocks, frequently fifty or more in number, during the winter, feeding mainly on seeds in open fields on the sunny slopes. As the spring sun melts away the snow to the north, most of the birds leave for their more northerly homes, but some few remain—enough so that it may now be classed as a regular, rare, resident species. It was first observed here as a winter bird, as it is more common then than in the breeding season, but it has also been observed breeding here. My colleague, Mr. R. B. Lyle, has a record of seeing a female feeding her young May 10th in the Boone's Creek territory about 6 miles north of Johnson City. I have a record of birds feeding young June 30th on top of Roan Mountain, at an elevation of 5900 feet, which elevation put them well within the Canadian Zone. To the east of Roan Mountain there is an extensive pasture covered with dense coarse grass and studded with scattered and dwarfed buckeye trees. Here I observed a small number of these birds, one persistently carrying food, but the nest was not found. Evidently the birds were maturing their nestlings, as at a subsequent visit to the Mountain on July 21st the birds were gone.

On April 19, 1936, I observed a Prairie Horned Lark rise from the road before my car, as I was slowly meandering a country by-road in the Boone's Creek section. At this unusual sight I stopped promptly and watched the bird as it flew over the roadside fence, alighting on the ground and immediately selecting some nesting material and flying a few rods to disappear in the grass. I marked the spot carefully and a week later returned with my colleague. We found the bird and the nest, but it was trampled by the stock that were pastured in the field. On May 3rd we returned again to the site, and after exhaustive search, flushed the bird and located a new nest, which was in a shallow excavation beneath a clump of sedge grass. The nest was constructed entirely of dead grass. It contained four fresh eggs, which measured .89 x .64. The finding of this nest makes complete the set of observations which fix definitely the status of the Prairie Horned Lark for this region.—BRUCE P. TYLER, Johnson City, Tenn.

The Division of Education of the Department of Game and Fish Conservation has just ended a very successful year. During this past year Tennessee has risen from 37th to 10th place in conservation work. In a recent meeting of the Board of Game and Fish Conservation Commissioners, the 1936-37 budget of this Division was set at $12,500, an increase of about 75 per cent. All over the state results can be noted—more interest in conservation, birds, animals, etc. During the coming year the Division of Education will have three full time lecturers, one located in Knoxville, one in Nashville and one in Jackson. Mr. John Caldwell is in charge of the Division.

Remember that cats destroy vast numbers of unsophisticated young bird in summer. The feline population is about ten times too large and the avian population is much too small. Bird lovers should do what they can to rectify this condition.

CHAPTER NEWS

NASHVILLE: The annual Spring Field Day, on May 10, was attended by an unusually large and representative group of bird lovers. The site chosen was at "The Pinacle" on beautiful Sycamore Creek near where it is crossed by the new Clarksville highway. Although the day was hot and dry, birds were observed in abundance and the total of the day's listing was 101 species. Delegations from Louisville, Ky., Florence, Ala., Knoxville, Murfreesboro, Clarksville and Dickson, Tenn., joined the Nashville group to swell the total attendance to 82 in all. A group photo will be found on page 42.—G. R. M.

KNOXVILLE: The regular Island Home Spring Bird Census was held on May 3 at the Ijams Farm on the Tennessee River and a total of 103 species were listed. The list is reproduced on another page and it is of interest to note that 26 members of the warbler family were recorded. The total attendance was about sixty. (See group photo on page 42.—Ed.) On May 2, the group went to the Great Smokies National Park, following the new "skyline drive" to the summit of Clingman's Dome. Near the latter point two Ravens leisurely flew by at fairly close range. A delegation from Nashville consisted of Mr. and Mrs. John Caldwell, M. S. Carter, A. F. Ganier, G. R. Mayfield and Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Sharp, Jr.—H. P. I.

MEMPHIS: The Spring Field Day of the Memphis Chapter, May 3, was held in the territory chiefly south of Memphis and for the first time in several years fair weather prevailed. The days' list was well over a hundred species, including many water birds from the Lakeview vicinity. The attendance was about ninety, this included a delegation of twenty from the Delta State Teachers College at Cleveland, Miss.—M. J. D.

CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER: An active branch of the T. O. S. was organized here early in the spring, largely through the enterprise of our first Clarksville member, Mr. Alfred Clebsch, Sr. This chapter now has thirteen members and has elected Dr. Charles F. Pickering as president and Mr. Clebsch as secretary. On March 28, Messrs. Ganier, Mayfield, Robins and Vaughn motored over from Nashville to formally "install" the chapter. Tabulation of migration records, observations on nesting, and listing the birds of Montgomery County have kept the members busy. The County list for 1936, up to June 1st, was 130 species. Migration notes are printed elsewhere in this issue.

From the Murfreesboro Chapter, Messrs. George Davis, H. O. Todd and Marion Edney, spent May 17 on Reelfoot Lake visiting the "cranetown" on the west side. The Herons, Egrets, Cormorants and Water Turkeys were found present in undiminished numbers. Some of the latter were found using old Ward's Heron nests.

As we go to press, a party of twelve T. O. S. members is leaving to spend a week on Roan Mountain in northeast Tennessee. They will study the birds of the summits, which is in the Canadian zone, and report in a later issue. Roan is one of the highest mountains in the eastern United States, rising to a height of 6,313 feet above sea level.

REVIEW: THE BIRDS OF CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA, by Eugene Odum, Edmund Taylor, Coit Coker and Arnold Breckenridge, is an annotated list of the 195 species (i.e. forms) of birds that have been recorded within a six mile radius of the State University campus. The status of each form is very clearly and satisfactorily set forth. An excellent introduction, written by Mr. Odum, enables the reader to properly picture the region, the amount of field work done and to give proper weight to the information presented. The reviewer's only criticism is that extreme dates of arrivals and departures are given rather than average and that nesting data is meagre. A bibliography is appended. The list was published in *The Journal of The Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society*, vol. 51, no. 2, Dec. 1935. Mr. Odum advises that he has a small supply of the reprints which may be had at 25 cents each. His address is Chapel Hill. A copy of this list will be useful to any Tennessee bird student, for comparison.—A. F. G.

THE MIGRANT

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"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough, it is not necessary to go beyond it."

EDITORIAL CHAT

In working over the copy and reading and re-reading the proof of the articles in this as well as past numbers of *The Migrant*, the Editor is impressed with the fact that they contain a certain literary quality that is rarely found. The intense interest which students of bird life experience after close contacts with birds, and the enthusiasm which comes from learning first hand that the little incidents of their lives closely parallel those of we humans, makes it natural that we should wish to pass our experiences on to our fellows. As journalists, our contributors are all amateurs and glory in telling in their own informal way of the interesting incidents and unusual "finds" which come to all of us while studying birds. Your Editor is ever watchful, of course, to see that accuracy is carefully adherred to, for the permanent value of *The Migrant* lies in the fact that it is a repository for facts about Tennessee birds that will be available for reference through the years to come.

The weeks gone by have brought Tennessee one of the most severe drouths in many years and birdlife will be adversely affected. Since April 9, only two inches of rain fell through May and June (at Nashville) against a normal of eleven inches. Normal rainfall means not only drink but food as well and and the lack of it causes birds to defer their nestings or to attempt smaller broods. Eggs often become infertile due to insufficient moisture and the young not infrequently die in the nest. Even the adult birds show a loss of vitality in times of drouth.

T. O. S. members can do their bit this summer by supplying water, and food as well, to the birds of their premises. A convenient drinking supply can be provided through the use of "baby chick waterers" purchasable at hardware stores. These consist of an inverted preserve jar screwed into a shallow metal saucer. A whirling lawn spray will attract many birds on a hot day.

Mr. William Vogt, Editor of *Bird-lore*, was the guest of the T. O. S., May 18 to 21, speaking to audiences in Nashville, Chattanooga and Knoxville. We greatly enjoyed his visit and trust that he will again come our way.

STATE OFFICERS, 1936-1937: At the Annual Spring Meeting, held at Nashville on May 10, the following State officers of the T. O. S. were elected. President, Bruce P. Tyler, of Johnson City; Vice-president for East Tenn., S. A. Ogden, of Knoxville; Vice-pres. for Middle Tenn., M. S. Carter, of Nashville; Vice-pres. for West Tenn., Ben B. Coffey, of Memphis; Editor-Treasurer, Albert F. Ganier, of Nashville; Secretary, James Trent, Jr., of 2104 Magnolia St., Knoxville, and Curator, Dr. H. S. Vaughn, of Nashville. Those elected will take office as of July 1st.

W. H. SEDBERRY

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For my work I refer you to the Tennessee State Museum, where I have mounted some of the specimens shown there and to the Editor of The Migrant.

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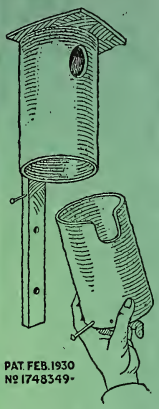

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AUGUST NOTES ALONG THE CUMBERLAND

By Alfred Clebsch, Sr.

During the latter part of August a nine day canoe trip on the Cumberland River offered interesting observations of many of our larger land and water birds to four members of the Clarksville Chapter, my two boys, Alfred and Billy, their cousin, Clarence Collier, Jr., and myself. From August 17th to the 25th we paddled in two canoes from Carthage down to Clarksville, a distance of 182 miles.

The weather was hot and sunny, the nights warm and the current slow. The stage of the water was as low as the dams permit. Although not pushed for time, the need of moving on did not often permit us stop to search for the small feathered folk on the banks, but the chant of the Indigo Bunting cheered us from the bordering fields, the song of the Field Sparrow was heard in many new forms, Goldfinches were quite active and from the willow bushes came the scolding of Yellow-breasted Chat and Carolina Wren. On the 19th, below Hunters' Point, a flock of thirty-five to fifty Warblers was noticed flying overhead. In places large numbers of Redwings chattered their glee over the ripening corn in the river bottoms.

Our most constant companions were Green Herons, Kingfishers and Yellow-billed Cuckoos, always enlivening the scene with action, color and music, that is, if you can give the name music to the rattling laughter of the Kingfisher, the scared and sometimes hoarse shrieking of the Green Heron and the fiendish clucking and chuckling of the Cuckoo. We saw many a fine catch made by the Kingfishers and wary Mr. Heron showed surprising agility, as he ran down the snag he was standing on, into the water, thrust bill and head under the surface and came out with a fish. A Cuckoo was scared off its nest in a willow four feet above the water on the 18th of August and two beautiful blue eggs were found in it.

At the heads of islands we could count on Killdeers and Spotted Sandpipers, the Killdeers giving complaining alarm at our approach and the Sandpipers fluttering and sailing low, with cupped wings, over the water to a point farther down on the exposed gravel bars. Once a Solitary Sandpiper rose from the edge of the bank in swallow-like flight as we passed.

Black Terns were seen every now and then during most of our trip, but none showed themselves on the last ten miles. The first met us not far below Carthage, going about their business in a serious fashion. Some were in mottled plumage and some, fewer in number, in solid black. At times the unvaried proportion of these numbers led us to think that the same group overtook or met us at points many miles apart. However, towards Nashville their number increased and the largest flock was seen below Lock 1 and counted 18 birds. They flew in formation, as if on patrol duty; once in a

while one would drop to catch a fish and resume his position in the line.

We saw more different birds as we moved nearer our goal. At the mouth of Stone's River a Least Tern, in his snowy whiteness and slender gracefulness, made a fine contrast to the five Black Terns with whom he flew. Thirteen miles below Nashville, the evening shadows falling from the high cliffs of Buzzard's Bluff, gave just the right setting for three Great Blue Herons, two little Blue Herons and a trio of American Egrets. The lumbering flight of the Great Blue, the strong wingbeat of the Egret, and the fluffy balloon-like rising of the Little Blue, characterized the three species. The Little Blues, in both white and blue plumages, was fairly common throughout the trip. Great Blues were seen only at three other points, and the American Egret only at Buzzard Bluff. Near Ashland City, over the widening river, flew four Least Terns and a little later a splendid looking group of six Common Terns in aerial manoeuvers, passed our campsite.

One of the nicest finds of the trip awaited us at Lock B, the last of the nine locks that we passed. Mr. S. A. Weakly, on whom we had called in Nashville, had told us that we would find there, nesting in our own county (Montgomery), a fine colony of Cliff Swallows. And here they were, filling the telephone wires, that are strung across the river, and showing their pretty colors in the morning sunlight against a background of blue sky dotted with summer clouds. A great many nests were in the recesses of the parapet of the concrete lock beside the dam. The number of birds on the wires and in flight seemed too large to have come from this particular lot of nests. On a submerged wall below the lock, a Lesser Yellowlegs was catching his breakfast; high-legged and a little knock-kneed, but most unconcerned.

The nights were hardly less interesting than the days. After the shadows of darkness had fallen, a few short, energetic calls from the Whip-poor-will seemed to give the signal that it was time for Great Horned and Barred Owls to start their arguments and deep-toned voice was answered by high-pitched voice ending in a scream, so that, by comparison, the calls of the Screech Owl seemed soft and re-assuring. And night after night the Cuckoo would indulge in whisper song, giving a mild staccato against the soft-blown, wailing cries of the Screech Owl. Till at daybreak there came again the Whip-poor-will's sharp signal and one of us, maybe, would be lucky enough to catch sight of one of these birds on their last rounds, just as the dragon flies began their police duty of catching away from the sleepers in the canoes the last few loitering mosquitoes.

On the home stretch, one Broad-winged and two Red-shouldered Hawks in the neighborhood of Neblett's Slough, 10 miles above Clarksville, made up for the absence of Terns and Herons. The identification of a young Red-shouldered Hawk gave us new hope to discover a nest at the slough next year. Here we met again Wood Ducks, of which we had seen a flock of twenty-five and a few single birds soon after our start from Carthage. One of them sprang into the air from a tree as we came along. We were now approaching Clarksville, which point we had left ten days before and our paddles seemed to dip a little deeper and a little faster as we saw again the familiar scenes and the birds we had seen before, along the Cumberland near home.

CLARKVILLE, TENN., August, 1936.

NOTE: The points referred to in the foregoing article lie the following distances, by water, below Carthage: Lock No. 7, 9 miles; Lock No. 6, 27;

THE APPEAL OF BIRD STUDY

By Benjamin R. Warriner

Birds possess great esthetic and economic worth, a plainly tangible value that ought by all means to be included in the nation's present day tendency toward the conservation and preservation of wild life in all of its forms. Furthermore, in bird study, properly pursued, there may be found the most wholesome material for development of the student in each phase of his three-sided being—physical, mental, and spiritual.

The birds, in the first place, call the ornithologist into the open for long and leisurely hikes through field and wood, at all seasons of the year and in all kinds of weather, thus providing healthful exercise without the exertion and exhaustion that so many other forms of recreation demand.

Secondly, bird study means just what the term implies. Knowledge of the feathered ones can be obtained only by real mental effort. The work most positively requires a deal of reading and research; field notes must be painstakingly kept; brief papers prepared concerning the almost endless details of an inexhaustible, ever interesting, subject. Accuracy must be conscientiously practiced, for the ornithologist brooks no half-way measures, no guesswork, no untruthfulness in his efforts to identify the birds and to know with certainty their characteristics and habits.

The birds themselves are highly ingenious. Indeed, they are deemed the cleverest of all creatures that belong to the purely animal kingdom. A number of factors go into the making of this high status. For instance, the birds sing, many of them with voices transcendently sweet. They display true skill in the building of their nests. Without tools or blueprint plans, they fashion out of straw and moss and lichen and tiny broken twigs, together with a score of other bits of waste odds and ends, secure and comfortable quarters where they deposit their eggs, hatch and raise their fledglings. They select sites of rare beauty in forest and field, in tree and vine, in weeds and grass, along streams, on hillsides, in meadows, in hedges, everywhere.

The birds bedeck themselves in raiment that always reflects their environment. Some of them wear feathers that are gay and glad. Others don gray and brown apparel, but in most instances there is always at least a bit of color to serve as a lively decoration. Red, blue, green, purple, bronze, black, white, yellow, flame, orange, with rare combinations of more somber tints—all lend their pigments to beautify and glorify the birds.

Best of all, many of the birds are travellers into far places. No insular, pent up, narrow and provincial lives for them. Reared under the bleak rim of the North Pole, certain birds fly each year to the antipodal regions of the earth and back again to their nesting grounds, a round trip of 22,000 miles. Others go from Alaska to South America. Still others travel the annual round trip from Canada to Mexico. Migrating, they fly over land and sea, through uncharted space, day and night, in storm and calm, in search of food and

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Lock No. 5, 44; Lock No. 4, 71; Lock No. 3, 92; mouth of Stone's River, 101; Lock No. 2, 105; Nashville wharf, 116; Lock No. 1, 118; Buzzard Bluff, 129; Ashland City, 150; mouth of Harpeth R., 155; Lock A, 157; Lock B, 168; and Clarksville (at mouth of Red R.), 183.—Editor.

agreeable climate, and in an effort to satisfy what appears to be an insatiable wanderlust.

So, the student of the birds, with the birds' fine mental capacity, beauty, song, and cosmopolitan bearing gained from their yearly visits to strange, exotic lands, dare not be a dullard. A mental sluggard, seeking companionship with the birds, would doubtless fail to realize his incongruous position, yet the birds would surely pity him.

In the third place, the birds do add a real measure of spiritual growth to the ornithologist. One's eyes are opened wide to the beauties of the out-of-doors world. One's mind ponders the mysteries of natural life and the divine source from which it comes. One's heart, in pursuit of the birds in scented, blooming fields in the springtime, in summer when meadows are sweet with new mown hay, in fall when trees are aflame and fields are brown with their coverings of frost bitten grass, in winter when the heavens are gray and leaden mist hangs heavy over stark, wooded bottoms, one's heart beats in tune with The Creator. Besides, like birds of a feather that flock together, bird students as a general custom walk and work accompanied by their own kind. Interested in the same thing, they become interested in one another and this social phase of bird study is always most enjoyable. The point may be well illustrated by considering the long and successful history of the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

CORINTH, MISS., April, 1936.

SOME HOT WEATHER OBSERVATIONS

BY JAMIE ROSS TIPPENS

The thing that worried me most during the recent hot weather, was its probable affect on four families of Purple Martins, nesting in my Martin box. From early morning, until late in the evening, this box is in the broiling sun. With the thermometer at one hundred degrees in the shade; I really suffered, when I thought what it must register in those small close rooms. I believe the sun did more to hatch the eggs, than the Martins themselves, for all day long the parent birds had their heads stuck out of the doors with their mouths open, so the box seemed to be sprouting some strange pink flowers.

One family that was in an attic room hatched first. This room had been occupied the previous year by English Sparrows, and the Martins in preparing their nest hauled some of the material out of the Sparrows nest and promptly put it back again. The only new material I saw them use, was twigs with green leaves, which they broke from the tops of elm and hackberry trees near by. After feeding their young for several days, they deserted the nest, and in about a week the Sparrows took it again. A few days later, I found on the ground under the box two dead young Martins clad with tiny pin-feathers. They were mashed flat, and were as dry as old leather, almost odorless, and covered with a coating of droppings. Two victims of the heat no doubt.

The other three families fared better, for seven of the young grew to maturity. They scrambled to the doors, when they were so young they could only hold their heads up for a moment, while being fed. One day a little fellow got entirely out on the porch, where it lay perfectly flat in an ex-

hausted manner with its mouth wide open, most of the day. I was amused at the excitement this venturesome youngster caused among the adults. They all gathered around, twittering and scolding, and all but pushed the young dare-devil back in the box. It lay flat however, and refused to leave the shady porch, where it remained until dusk. It must have gotten safely back in its nest for I searched the ground thoroughly and it had not fallen. This fledgling had only pin-feathers.

One particular Martin, brought in a good sized dragon-fly, on three separate trips, the same afternoon. There is a bird bath within twenty-five feet of the Martin box but I have never seen one Martin bathe or drink, though fresh cool water is within their reach constantly.

At my feeding station this summer, there have been only a few Robins; last year they were numerous. There is an increase in the number of Towhees, Brown Thrashers and Cardinals. The Towhees and Cardinals have added watermelon seed to their diet, and one Mockingbird developed a decided taste for the white blossoms of some Portulaca plants. These blossoms are large and double; I watched the bird tear up and devour two whole flowers, on one occasion.

A pair of Grackles built their nest and reared their young, in a squirrel box on top of a decapitated hackberry tree. These two must have been "affected by the heat," for any number of fine nesting sites were to be found, in the tall trees all around them.

When the first cooling rain came on July 2, after the long drouth; two Pigeons got down on the ground on the lawn and laid on their sides, raising the uppermost wing, stretching it back, so as to let the rain fall where the feathers were less thick. They turned over several times, and repeated this performance. I have never seen any creature appear more grateful for a cooling shower. I finally donned a bathing suit and went out in the rain too. It *was* WONDERFUL.

NASHVILLE, TENN., August, 1936.

SIX SEPTEMBER DAYS IN THE SMOKIES

BY FRANKLIN MCCAMEY

The six days between September 3 and 8, 1936, were spent hiking and camping in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, by George Foster, of Norris, Tenn., and the writer. Observations of the bird-life was our chief interest during this period. During the six days we recorded 81 species within the Park, including 18 species of Warblers and 5 of Hawks and the others mentioned below.

On September 3rd, we drove over Rich Mountain to Cades Cove and from there hiked to the tops of Gregory and Parson's Balds. Interesting records for the day included a large flock of warblers on Rich Mountain, twelve Bob-White on the top of Gregory, one each of Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks in the woods beside the trail, 175 Nighthawks along a quarter of a mile of road in the Cove, and a Whip-poor-will calling as we cooked supper on Rich Mountain.

We left Gatlinburg on the 4th and, following the advice of Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist, found three Red Crossbills *"pip-pipping"* in the trees back of Camp H. A. Morgan—a new one for both of us. In the after-

noon, hiking along a beautiful new trail up the Tennessee side of Mt. Collins, we found Juncos, Brown Creepers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Mountain Vireos fairly common under 4500 feet. Warblers, particularly Black-and-white, Cairns's, and Black-throated Green were common. Where we stopped at 4500 feet, a Raven was heard croaking not far away and a Red-shouldered Hawk was carefully observed as he perched in a dead tree forty yards away. A Ruffed Grouse was heard *"clucking"* near the trail as we descended and a Black-billed Cuckoo, near the stream where we ate, finished the day.

On the 5th, headed for Clingman's Dome, we heard a Red Cross-bill flying over. From the Parking Area at 6300 feet we hiked south-east over a muddy trail to Andrew's Bald. Robins, Catbirds, and Veeries were found in numbers feeding on the blackberries along the trail. A Worm-eating Warbler was observed by Foster, and five Crossbills flew over the ridge. As we approached the edge of Andrew's Bald, like a sudden explosion, seven Wild Turkeys flew up not forty feet away and sailed out over the valley, dropping into the trees. An instant later we spied a Red-tailed Hawk and a Cooper's Hawk sailing a short distance away, and far in the distance, two Ravens were soaring about. We walked to the lower end of the Bald, where two more Turkeys flew up, one stopping in a Balsam, affording us an excellent chance to examine it. Retracing our steps, we heard Ravens croaking, and climbing a great rock, saw five of them soaring over the valley a quarter of a mile away. These five put on quite a show for us, sailing, soaring, dipping, diving, and playing on the air currents, their glossy feathers flashing in the sun. Returning to Clingman's Dome, the writer saw his first Ruffed Grouse; one bird perched on a fallen log, while another walked beneath the log, and two more *"clucked"* a little farther away. Later we climbed Clingman's Dome, but saw few birds, other than Black-capped Chicadees and a few Swallows far above the summit. Driving down, the car frightened a Raven from the road, and we watched it at close range. An afternoon hike to Mt. LeConte via Alum Cave, netted us nothing unusual except one Crossbill near the Cave and several beautiful views. The 6th was an uninteresting day, since it was spent in a garage where the car was being repaired.

September 7th was spent, in company with John R. Raper, hiking from New-found Gap out past The Jump-off and along The Saw-teeth, four miles to the northeast. The latter are so called because of the jagged rock strata which protrude from the ridge along the State line. Several Red Crossbills were seen at The Gap and more were heard down the slopes, perhaps a dozen in all. The trip was otherwise uneventful except for beautiful views and typical Canadian zone birds until we reached The Saw-teeth. Here a Duck Hawk displayed for us his superb powers of flight and a Sharp-shinned Hawk sailed inconspicuously below. Out on the Saw-teeth, the hoarse calls of two Ravens and a Grouse seen running across the trail, added interest to the hike. Little of note was seen on an afternoon trip to Rainbow Falls except the beautiful falls and a gorgeous sun-set viewed from the side of Mount LeConte. Another Raven however was heard from the trail near the falls.

On the 8th, we saw what must be the most beautiful waterfall in the Park—the Ramsey Cascades, east of Greenbrier. On the twelve mile hike, few birds were seen other than the usual Warblers and Canadian zone birds, here found at a lower altitude than usual. Two Prairie Warblers, new to

our Park list, were seen in a field below the mountain.

And so ended our six days in the new park, during which time we had covered 80 miles on foot and about 400 in the car. In spite of this mileage, however, we realized that we still lacked a lot of covering the many places of interest in this great rugged tract of more than 400,000 acres.

YALE UNIVERSITY, NEW HAVEN, CONN., Sept., 1936.

BIRD BANDING BREVITIES—NO. 9

BY AMELIA R. LASKEY

August 1, 1936 closed the fifth year of my bird banding activities with a total for the period of 7548 birds of 98 species, ranging in size from a fledgling Hummingbird to a Golden Eagle. Return records include 476 individuals of 30 species, many of which have returned two or more times after migration. Local and State recovery records number 51. Out-of-state recoveries numbering 12 have been reported by the Bureau of Biological Survey from Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, Virginia, Louisiana, and New York. The Survey reported several this year including a Mourning Dove banded April 16, 1935, shot about February 1, 1936, at Normandy, Tenn.; Kildeer, banded August 25, 1935, found dead March 25, 1936 at Minor Hill, Tenn.; Mockingbird banded May 26, 1934 as a nestling, killed January 29, 1936 at Fulton, Miss.; Robin banded July 13, 1935, shot in a rice field, February 10, 1936, at Carville, La.;Song Sparrow banded December 3, 1934, caught in a deadfall February 1, 1936 at Okolona, Miss.; Starling banded February 24, 1934, reported February 7, 1936 at Norton, Va.; Hairy Woodpecker banded March 5, 1933 in Belle Meade was caught by a dog in the same section on April 25, 1936.——The first Nashville station record of a nestling returning to its home after migration is that of 34-172603, a Catbird, one of four, banded from the nest in a honeysuckle bush at Blossomdell, June 4, 1935. It was retaken at the same place on July 1, 1936.——On account of intensive building projects all around the home banding station, trapping here has been at low ebb for several months. It is impossible to reach any conclusions as to the effect of the long drouth periods of spring and summer in 1936 on bird population in comparison with previous years. However during a peak of Warbler migration beginning September 7th when it was very dry in two and a half days of trapping, 27 were caught in a four cell water-drip trap. The list included Canadian, Wilson's, Tennessee, Black and White, Redstart, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, and Maryland Yellowthroats. Two of the last named species were returns.——Three young bird students, Arthur McMurray, William Simpson and Steve Lawrence, have started sub-stations at their homes and are doing fine work as novitiate bird banders. Arthur McMurray has trapped 51 birds of 10 species during vacation in the closely built section of town at 21st and Jones Ave. Wm. Simpson, whose home adjoins the wooded section of Hobbs Road, made a rare catch of two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in an interesting way. A young bird left its nest in a very tall tree and being unable to fly well, dropped to the ground in his yard. A hen began immediately to peck the tiny fledgling but it was rescued by William and placed in a box fastened to a tree near the nesting tree. The mother came immediately to feed it. He

then removed it to a trap and from a blind watched the parent bird hesitate awhile and then entrap herself as she entered with food for the youngster. Steve Lawrence located a late Yellow-billed Cuckoo's nest near his home on Belair Ave. The young were banded and were still being brooded in the nest (about five feet up) on Sept. 11th. Leo Rippy continues to do systematic work at the Love Hill sub-station. His most interesting captures this year were two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in May and a return White-eyed Vireo in June that had been banded in July, 1935.

NASHVILLE, TENN., Sept. 12, 1936.

A BIRD SYMPHONY

BY MRS. AUSTIN PEAY

Bach, the great composer of music, wrote what are known as chorales, with parts for eight distinct instruments. None of these parts carried the same theme, but all blended into one grand symphony. Two weeks ago, I heard such a score. But it was not written by Bach, or any human hand. I have heard Grand Opera at the Metropolitan, and in the Royal Theatre in Paris. These were in gorgeous staging. But this recent concert was in a far more beautiful setting, high up in the Great Smoky Mountains, with green canopy overhead. It must have been in a spot like this that the prophet Nahum wrote, describing the majesty of God, when he said "the clouds are the dust of His feet." The hour for this lovely performance was not the usual time for concerts—four-thirty in the morning. Both audience and performers were unseen. In fact, had the singers seen the audience they probably would not have given their several parts; some would not even have appeared.

It began with the nervous haste and fluster of the Robin's "*cheep-cheep-cheep-cheep,*" as if the instruments were tuning up and without expression. But soon the curtain rose to the shrill whistle of the Kingfisher. Then the real music began with the gentle *coo-coo coo*ing call of the dove in the far distance like some sweet echo. Before this had died, there was the staccato whistling song of Bob White, over and over again with an answering call—probably with an extra "bob"—to his "*bob-white.*" Then, as if the theme was changed and the time demanded something restful, the Pewee, the sentimentalist of the woods, began his peaceful solo. This sweet song is always the same slow and thoroughly musical, though his appearance is plain as his song. Some listeners thinks this bird is melancholy and mournful, as Dr. Elliott Coues says in writing of the Pewee. But to me, his voice has a slow dignity. And then, apparently thinking things were moving with too much solemnity, a Carolina Wren burst forth fluently into his well known "*whee-udel, whee-udel, whee-udel.*" Until now those taking part have appeared in inconspicuous dress—only the Robin wearing even so much as a colored vest and the curtain-raiser—Kingfisher—a grey-blue suit with cap to match and white vest and tie. Now enters one dressed all in brilliant red, with a song that suits his color. You must remember, the audience is still not seen or seeing, and I only knew this fine fellow from his voice as I remembered it on other occasions. So I listened with real pleasure while the Cardinal sang that lovely, but not always true prophecy of "*wet-*

year, wet-year, wet-year." While the brilliant red-bird was still disporting himself, the reprobate or the rascal of the whole play, interrupted, dressed in his ultra-marine blue coat, with a darker blue cap and vest. Without attempting anything sweet or sentimental, he intervened with his harsh and ringing "*jay-jay*" tones. There were many others in this marvelous chorale—but, shame to say—I can not tell you of them, because I do not know them by their voices.

All these I have mentioned, and many more, blended in one exquisite accompaniment for the maestro of the morning—to me the loveliest singer in all my bird acquaintance—the Wood Thrush. He was the real soloist. And better critics than I say that few of the woodland singers are equally gifted with the Wood Trush, and it is a question whether any of his relatives can rival him either in tone of voice, or in song-motif. His coat or back is a soft cinnamon brown, merging to olive brown on the tail; the vest or underparts are white, distinctly dotted with rather large black spots.

That you may fully appreciate this lovely singer, I will quote some of his press comments, as it were. John Burroughs in Wake Robin says, the song of the Wood Thrush is "golden and leisurely." Mr. Torrey writes admiringly: "it is the most glorious bit of vocalism to be heard in our woods—a tinkle or spray of bell-like tones." Mr. Cheney declares, "in a moment one is oblivious to all else, and ready to believe that the little song is not of earth, but a wandering strain from the skies." F. Shuyler Matthews, author of "Wild Birds and their Songs," writes: "His music steals upon the senses like the opening notes of the great Fifth Symphony of Beethoven; it fills one's heart with the solemn beauty of simple melody, rendered by an inimitable voice; no violin, no piano, no organ confined to such a limited score can appeal to one so strongly. The quality of tone is indescribably fascinating; it is like the harmonious tinkling of crystal glass combined with the vox angelica stop of the cathedral organ."

So my symphony was complete when this favorite—the Wood Trush—sang with his marvelous accompaniment. The concert closed and the curtain fell just as the sun peeped quietly over the high top of old Thunderhead.

CLARKSVILLE, TENN., July, 1936.

AUGUST WATERBIRD VISITORS AT MUD LAKE

BY BEN B. COFFEY

Mud Lake, crossed diagonally by the Tennessee-Mississippi line, and located slightly over three miles west of Lakeview, Miss., is a very shallow lake about one and a half miles long and from one to two hundred yards wide. It is reached by following a dirt road along the Mississippi River levee which is extended several miles east of the river, through the bottoms to the bluffs at Lakeview, leaving Mud Lake, Horn Lake, North Lake, and smaller bodies, and the wooded Ensley Darwin bottom-lands, subject to overflow. Grassy fields on the side opposite the lake extend to a nearby line of "barrow-pits" filled with willows. By late summer all pits except one large, open one, are dry and muddy shores mark the shallow end of it. We climb the levee to make a preliminary survey of bird life on the lake through the narrow fringe of cypress. A thick tangled undergrowth below impedes our

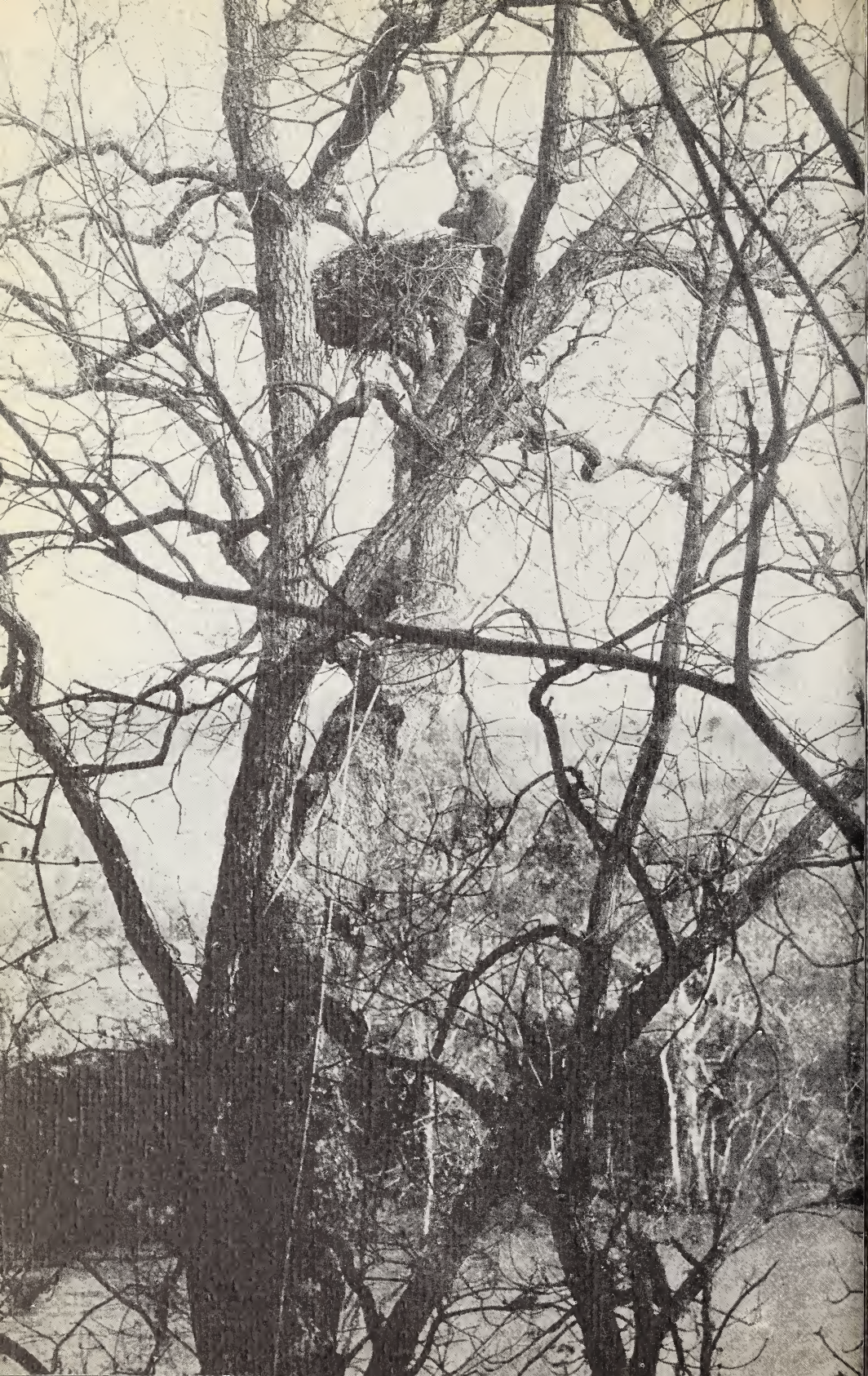
progress to the shore for a closer inspection. In winter the back-water often comes high up on the levee and pairs of Mallards, migrating early, rise from the undergrowth. As spring passes, the water recedes rapidly and by June the shoreline contracts within the border of trees and vines. In 1934 the lake dried up completely by the last of July. This year only a few narrow puddles were left on August 30th. Normally, enough water is present until the rainy season begins in October and American Egrets and Little Blue Herons in good sized flocks frequent the lake throughout August and September. Smaller numbers of Great Blue Herons are present and Wood Ducks are frequenlty seen. When the lake becomes very shallow and well margined with mud flats, no similar place near Memphis is as popular with the water birds. Many of them have been recorded here, as noted in past issues of *The Migrant* under "The Season at Memphis" and on pa. 35 of the issue of Sept., 1932.

This year the high spot of the wading bird records was the presence of about 300 Wood Ibis (locally called "Gourd-heads") among a smaller number of American Egrets on August 9. Small groups of the Ibises came in at dusk adding about 90 to the group which settled in the willows alongside the north or far side of the lake. Two flock (50 or more) of unidentified shorebirds flew over but those that we identified and recorded were at the large barrow pit, a mile away.

On August 16, the next Sunday, the water level had dropped so that the lake was about half normal size (or about two-thirds of the open area) and a larger area of mud flats had appeared. The herons,, except for a few, had moved out and the shorebirds had moved in, as evidenced by the largest number we have ever recorded. The most numerous of these was the Pectoral Sandpiper, about 800 being counted. One week later the water had dropped only a little but on the 30th only a few puddles were left. Normally a time for herons, we hoped to find them at other places in this area, but due to unfavorable conditions, they have evidently moved elsewhere. Mrs. Coffey noted only a few on September 7 at Horseshoe Lake, Arkansas, a large and suitable body of water.

The list of water birds recorded at Mud Lake during August is given on the next page, together with additional records (in parenthesis) for the nearby large barrow-pits mentioned above.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS: The photo on the opposite page is a view of Mud Lake at the State Line below Memphis and was taken on Aug. 16, to illustrate Mr. Coffey's article above. In the distance may be seen some of the Egrets, Little Blue Herons and other birds described by him. Photo by the Editor.——On the next page is depicted a huge nest of Red-tailed Hawk, built in a big oak above the Cumberland River, at Bell's Bend near Nashville. Dr. H. S. Vaughn made the picture and his son William stands at the nest, 80 feet above the water.——On the third page, a pair of Goldfinchs are shown at their nest. Around the first of August, when our readers are thinking of cool mountains and breezy seashores, the procrastinating Goldfinch is just beginning the rather enervating job of rearing a nest-full of youngsters. In the upper picture the resplendent male is shown passing a chioce morsel to his mate, to be censored by her before she gives it to the young. In the lower picture the female is shown shading her offspring from the mid-day sun. The pictures were taken recently by Miss Mabel Slack, of Louisville, Ky. (Continued on page 67).



SPECIES.	*Aug. 2*	*Aug. 9*	*Aug. 16*	*Aug. 23*	*Aug. 30*
Water-Turkey	....	....	....	(1)	....
Great Blue and-or Ward's Heron	31	25	30	5	1
American Egret	13	50	85	2	....
Little Blue Heron, adult	40 plus	60	120	2	....
Little Blue Heron, imm.	205 plus	50	162	20	....
Eastern Green Heron	(2)	(5)	6(6)	(6)	1
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	....	....	8*	5*	....
Eastern Least Bittern	....	....	(4)	(2)	....
Wood Ibis	....	390	3	....	....
Mallard	....	....	....	(11)	(1)
Blue-winged Teal	....	....	9	11	11
Wood Duck	17(26)	5	40(50)	(8)	....
King Rail	....	....	(2)	....	....
Sora	....	....	(6)	(5)	....
Semi-palmated Plover	....	....	....	....	1
Killdeer	(12)	30(10)	80	60	80
Am. Woodcock	....	....	2	....	....
Upland Plover	....	....	....	....	5
Spotted Sandpiper	....	....	1	1	1
E. Solitary Sandpiper	2	2(2)	100(1)	50	7(4)
Western Willet	....	....	....	4	....
Greater Yellowlegs	....	....	4	....	2(1)
Lesser Yellowlegs	....	2	200	200	25
Pectoral Sandpiper	3	66	800	400	250
Least Sandpiper	....	....	2	6	15
Eastern Dowitcher	....	....	....	5	....
Semipalmated Sandpiper	....	....	1	....	5
Western Sandpiper	....	....	....	....	4
Unidentified "peeps"	....	50	....	....	6
Least Terns	10	....	60	30	....
Black Tern	....	....	20	6*	2

*—includes one adult.

Of the 20 Black Terns seen on Aug. 16, 12 were adults.

A badly decomposed Snowy Egret was found on Mud Lake, Aug. 23.

The following two species were of particular interest.

Western Willet *(catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus)*—A very conspicuous and easily recognized shorebird but the sub-species identity was not determined, though probably referable to this race. We got quite a "kick" out of flushing it, listening to its call and watching the beautiful black and white wings. At least four were present. We have been expecting to find this species for some time. This is the first record for this area and the second for Tennessee. One was collected at Del Rio in East Tennessee in the late summer of 1934 *(The Migrant*, 1935, page 49). In Mississippi it occurs as a

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OUR ILLUSTRATIONS (Continued).—The photo on the opposite page is that of two Little Blue Herons, in snow white plumage, on the Tennessee River at Knoxville, Tenn. More about this picture will be found in the Round Table, under the heading, "He Called for a Camera."

fairly common permanent resident on the Gulf Coast.

Eastern Dowitcher *(Limnodromus griseus griseus)*—Five or more of this species, in almost nuptial plumage, were easily recognized by the snipe-like appearance, reddish breast, and the conspicuous white area in the middle of the back. It is believed that these were of the Eastern race. Previous records are for Lakeview, Miss., by McCamey and Foster on August 6, 1935, and Reelfoot Lake, Tenn., Nov. 27, 1875 *(U. S. Nat. Museum Bul.*, No. 142, p. 115).

Some interesting land bird records for the open fields, and records from North Lake are included in the Round Table notes.

MEMPHIS, TENN., Sept., 1936.

THE ROUND TABLE

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: Nearly every weekend has been spent in the field but many trips were deep down into Mississippi or through West Tennessee. Mud Lake was visited assiduously throughout August, as noted on preceding pages, and with its drying up we will lose most of our opportunities for additional water bird records throughout September and October.—— Records for North Lake, in the wooded Tennessee bottomlands northwest of Lakeview, are given herewith. Pond and Clayton, August 13: Snowy Egret *(Egretta thula thula)*, 3 (first record for the Memphis area); Little Blue Heron, 40; Green Heron, 15; Killdeer, 75; Spotted Sandpiper, 5; E. Solitary Sandpiper, 12; Lesser Yellowlegs, 12; Pectoral Sandpiper, 40; White-rumped Sandpiper, 1; Least Sandpiper, 30; Least Tern, 30 and Black Tern, 40. McCamey, et al., August 16—Great Blue Heron, 73; Egret 50; Little Blue Heron, 2 adults, 80 immature; Green Heron, 10; Killdeer, 80; Spotted Sandpiper, 4; E. Solitary Sandpiper, 80 plus; Greater Yellowlegs, 1; Lesser Yellowleg, 75; Pectoral Sandpiper, 70 plus; Least Sandpiper, 6; Stilt Sandpiper, 8; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 8; Least Tern, 50 and Black Tern, 8.——On July 11 we made our only trip into the Ensley-Darwin bottoms and tried in vain to get close enough to a small flock of Fish Crows to collect one. The usual summer list was made there and in addition, on a sandbar in Tennessee Chute, we noted four "peeps", two of which were seen close enough to be identified as Least Sandpipers. The Mississippi Kites were not seen nor were any of this species noted over Vance Woods on stops made throughout the season. However, on August 16 with A. F. Ganier, et al., we saw an immature Kite at the end of the Harahan viaduct (Arkansas) and five Kites over Mound City Chute (Ark.-Tenn.). McCamey, et al., observed two the same day between Lakeview and Mud Lake.——No Short-billed Marsh Wrens were seen at Ensley, July 11, but five were recorded near Lakeview on August 2; our first trip there since May. On August 9 we listened for this species along the levee road at Lakeview and westward from the railroad for 3½ miles, recording 40 of them singing. Several of these were easily seen. On August 16, 6 were heard along this same route without making the search we did previously, and in addition, over 10 more the rest of the trip. On August 23, 5 were recorded.——On July 16 three Grasshopper Sparrows were heard singing and flushed from a field in the Hollywood section of town. This is our first summer record although intensive investigation may show this species

to be a regular summer resident here. Several were recorded at Lakeview, Miss., on August 2, 9 and 16.—Authentic descriptions of Barn Swallow nests in the 1935 prize notebooks of Shelby County students indicated that this species probably bred here. On June 25 I found my first nest for this area, plastered on the concrete girder of a bridge on the old Hernando Road, south of Brooks Avenue. Two swallows skimming over the fields and under the structure caused me to make the search. As I worked my way under the bridge a number of swallows burst out suddenly while a pair continued to fly in and out, scolding. Only one nest was found, evidently used but in good condition. Once again outside I counted seven swallows and assumed that five were immature. On July 11 this nest contained four eggs. No other nest was found.——The swallow migration reached high count on the Lakeview levee meadows during August as follows: Tree, 800, Bank, 120, Rough-winged, 500, all on the 16th; Barn Swallow, 120 on the 23rd. One Cliff was seen on the 2nd. On September 11 at twilight I noted moderate numbers of swallows darting back and forth out over the river, possibly extending to the other shore; a conjecture since visibility was poor. Swallows were noted without a break, as I drove along Riverside Drive for a mile until it left the river's edge.——John Pond reports seeing a Summer Tanager feeding a young Cowbird in Overton Park, Aug. 12.——George Clayton reported Redstart, Parula, Magnolia, and Canada Warblers common and other transients present in the Park on Sept. 5 and 12.——A male Wilson's Warbler was noted in my backyard on Sept. 14.——Good fortune evidently smiled on the broods of young Robins near home as over a hundred immature birds could be found throughout July on the well house lawn nearby. A small sumach bush in my yard usually held about 15 each evening and a revolving sprinkler attracted others to the back yard. However, I was able to trap and band only a few.—BEN B. COFFEY, JR., Memphis.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW NEAR MEMPHIS: On August 2, 1936, on our first visit to the Lakeview area since late May, we heard a few Short-billed Marsh Wrens singing from the thick growth of partridge pea and other weeds characteristic of the open area between the levee and the chain of willow-crowded barrow-pits. While I was looking for one of the Wrens, a small sparrow perched in the open atop a weed stalk and repeated a forceless two syllable chip, described as *"tsi-lick"* by Peterson. Mrs. Coffey and I were each able to approach it closely. I stood five feet away and studied it carefully, noting the greenish nape as well as a light-colored median crown line, narrow brown streaks on the flanks, and general stubby appearance. After close attention to its song we flushed it and then turned our attention to the wrens. This is our first record of this species for the Memphis area, the locality being just southwest of Mud Lake and probably one to two hundred yards inside the Tennessee line. It was probably the western form, *Passerherbulus h. henslowi.* In south Mississippi this species is apparently a not uncommon winter resident.—BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis.

Feeding stations, to attract birds about your homes, will yield splendid dividends for the small trouble expended. Locate them near shrubbery, at the height of your window sill if close to the house and you will not only be entertained but you will learn a lot as well.

NOTES FROM CLARKSVILLE: Members of the local T. O. S. chapter submit the following notes.——A noteworthy late straggler was a White-throated Sparrow, observed here on June 7th. While a group of us were coming up the Cumberland River in a canoe, late in the afternoon, we noticed the bird on the bank in the bushes. He took flight into trees higher on the bank but the two of us who went in pursuit, found him again drowsing on a branch. There we observed his tell-tale markings at leisure. With the exception of this straggler, our last White-throat was noted on May 8, this year.—— During the same trip, a few miles below town, a Spotted Sandpiper was identified by Alfred Clebsch, Jr. No check could be made to tell whether this, too, was a stranger or a nesting bird.——July 5th Pickering and Clebsch found a Parula Warbler on the island in Cumberland River 7 miles above town. Two days later the bird was seen again and his song studied.——Short-billed Marsh Wrens were discovered in the swampy meadow in front of the Idaho Springs Hotel near Dunbar's Cave and received much attention from our members. The birds were first noted on July 25th. A dummy nest was collected August 2nd. On August 7th, 24 birds were flushed and another nest was located. The two nests were unlined and rather shallow. Recently the bushy growth in the meadow that gave these birds shelter was cut by the owners. Before that time, however, Mr. Jas. Robins had found Marsh Wrens in two other sites in the same neighborhood.——Waterbirds in late summer migration were noted on the following dates: Great Blue Heron July 5th; Solitary Sandpiper July 18th; Little Blue Heron, Spotted and Pectoral Sandpipers July 30th; American Egret August 9th; Yellowlegs (flock of 8) August 30th; Black-throated Green Warblers were reported August 7th and 8th.—— On August 2nd a search for late nestings gave, for about a mile of roadside hedges; Robin on 3 eggs, Cardinal 2 nests with 2 eggs each, another with 3 nestlings, Catbird nest with 3 young showing a few pins and Brown Thrasher sitting on 3 eggs. On Sept. 1st a dove sitting on eggs was reported.——Notes taken on our canoe trip down the Cumberland, Aug. 17-25, will be found on another page.——On Sept. 5th and 6th, we paddled down the Red River from Port Royal to Clarksville, keeping a close lookout for birds. An interesting record was a young Blue-winged Teal, about the size of a Bob-white, found drifting along. It was sick and full of lice and died while we were encamped. Five Wood Ducks, an immature Little Blue Heron and a Great Blue, were the only large water birds we met. The latter passed within 25 feet of me one morning as I was lying in the canoe, shortly after waking. A good list of land birds was compiled.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, SR., Clarksville.

BIRDS HUNG BY HAIRS AND STRINGS: Within the confines of Nashville, three Robins might have been accused of having had suicidal intentions were it not for strong evidence to the contrary, by reason of the fact that the birds were building their homes at the time.

The first accident occurred on Cedar Lane, in the yard of a friend. The Robin, while taking a string to her nest in a thorn tree, got the string caught on a thorn and at the same time got her foot caught in some way, in the other end of the string. When first discovered she was suspended by the string and making an effort to get loose by flying. The children of the house found her swinging back and forth and seeking aid, the bird was soon released. The next case was at the home of Mr. T. Graham Hall, on 16th Avenue, South. This bird had collected some human hair as a lining for her

nest, and in alighting on the limb of a black locust, the hair caught on the rough bark and at the same time became entangled about her foot. When first seen by Mr. Hall, the bird had become nearly exhausted by its efforts to free itself and required several hours to recover after being released. The third accident occurred on the rose arbor at my home. This Robin had found a string three or four feet long with which she no doubt expected to decorate her nest. She flew with it into the rose vines where the nest was, but before she got to the nest the string became caught. She released the end she had and took hold further down and in turning about with it, in her efforts she finally wrapped the string around her body. It was with some difficulty that she was able to releease herself. Thereafter, at each trip with material, she would stop and give the string a tug but to no avail and there it remained until the young had flown.—H. S. VAUGHN, Nashville.

SUMMER NOTES, NASHVILLE: Ample rain through July broke the long drouth and brought on renewed nesting activities along with fresh foliage. Through August, more young birds were to be seen than the writer recalls in any previous year. Some late nestings observed were: Cardinal August 2, two nests with 3 small young in each; August 9, nest with 2 fresh eggs; a Field Sparrow's nest which contained 1 egg on August 9, contained 3 young on the 24th. A Dove's nest, with 1 fresh egg on September 6, was reported by Dr. Pickering. Mr. Todd of Murfreesboro reports: Mockingbird July 21, 4 eggs; Cardinal July 28, 3 eggs; Field Sparrow July 28, 3 eggs; Goldfinch August 22, 3 eggs; Chimney Swift, August 19, 2 young; and Dove, Sept. 8, 2 young.——Through August and into September, large numbers of Chimney Swifts, Grackles and Starlings have entered the city to roost. The Swifts are roosting again at Belmont Methodist Church chimney and a lesser number in the theatre chimney 2 blocks away. The "blackbirds" are occupying rows of maple trees on several city streets.——Shorebirds have been very scarce the present season, practically none except Solitary Sandpipers being seen.——On July 26, at Columbia, with Messrs. Gray and Williamson, I recorded two rare Warblers, the Gold-winged and the Worm-eating. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on August 8 was rather early for this species and a Chuck-wills-widow on September 5 was a bit late. Three Northern Water-Thrushes, together, were found on August 30.——A number of Short-billed Marsh Wrens were seen in August and Calhoun has record of a Long-billed. He also collected one of two Nashville Warblers on September 6. There was a distinct warbler "wave" around this date.——The old Cardinal at my home and his mate, finally brought off a brood of 3 young on July 20, and the youngsters are at this date, September 10, still begging to be fed.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville.

GREAT BLUE HERONS NESTING AT MUSCLE SHOALS: The following is quoted from a report received from Mr. F. C. Key: "On a recent trip on the Tennessee River, from Lock A, Elk River Shoals canal, to Milton's Bluff, Pilot Carter Crawford called my attention to four nests of the Great Blue Heron. They were built in the tops of large trees, three in one tree and one in another. The nests were of sticks and seemed to be poorly constructed. They are located on the left bank of the canal, which runs along the south side of the river, below the angle dam or about a half mile below Lock A."—S. A. WEAKLEY, Nashville.

THE COWBIRD IN SUMMER NEAR MURFREESBORO: In the last issue of THE MIGRANT, Mr. H. C. Monk gave a number of breeding records of the Cowbird in the vicinity of Nashville. I wish to supplement these with my records for the adjoining county of Rutherford during the three past years.

White-eyed Vireo; May 14, 1936, three eggs of the Vireo and one of the Cowbird; May 5, 1936, four eggs of the Vireo and one of the Cowbird; the nest was two feet up at the end of a branch of a small cedar and on the same branch, about 16 inches away, was an unused nest of the Vireo.

Towhee; June 16, 1935, three eggs of the Towhee and one of the Cowbird. April 14, 1935, three eggs of the Towhee and two of the Cowbird. May 6, 1936, three eggs of the Towhee and one of the Cowbird.

Blue-grey Gnatcatcher; July 17, 1935, five eggs of the Gnatcatcher and one of the Cowbird. Four of the owner's eggs were broken and the nest had been deserted; the nest was built fifteen feet up in an elm.

Field Sparrow; May 8, 1936, one egg of the Cowbird and none of the Sparrow; either the Cowbird had laid first or something had taken the Sparrow eggs.

Wood Thrush; May 23, 1936, three eggs of the thrush and one of the Cowbird. When first found, on May 19, it contained one egg—that of the thrush.—HENRY O. TODD, Murfreesboro.

NOTES FROM WINCHESTER AND MINGO SWAMP:—The following notes, made near my old home at Winchester, Tenn., during the past summer, may be of interest. There is an open pond in Mingo Swamp and another near Belvidere, both having been described previously in THE MIGRANT, (1933, p. 37). Here on August 28, there were 8 Blue-winged Teal and two days later 17 of them were counted; they were probably raised somewhere in this general vicinity. On these dates, were also observed Pied-billed Grebe, 2 Black Terns, Solitary Sandpipers, Little Blue Herons and an American Egret. The latter may be the same one that has been visiting the Belvidere pond for several years past, at this season.——Some early fall warblers were the Blackburnian on August 27, and the Canada and Black-throated Green on August 28. Other warblers noted during the last ten days in August were the Hooded, Parula, Prairie, Yellow, Black-and-white, Redstart, and Ovenbird.—F. A. PATTIE, JR., Rice Institute, Houston, Texas.

ADDITIONAL CLIFF SWALLOW COLONIES: In the last issue, record was made of nesting colonies of these birds at Lock D on the Cumberland near Dover, and at Swallow Bluff on the Tennessee River. Since that time, several trips on these rivers have given me opportunity to examine all other likely places for their nests. On July 24, I passed Locks A to E on the Cumberland and made notation as follows: Lock A near Ashland City; the walls of this lock are so constructed that no sheltered place for the swallows is available. Lock B, 14 miles above Clarksville, 107 nests counted under the parapet (as at Dover) and about 1,000 birds flying about. More birds this year than last. This lock was built about 1916 and the birds began nesting there the following year. Lock C, 18 miles west of Clarksville; 20 nests under parapets but very few birds about. English Sparrows were using two of the nests. Lock D at Dover; the lock-keeper reports that a large number of the birds left during July; on my last visit here, June 28, five

or six hundred of the birds were observed resting on the limbs of a dead tree on the bank. Lock E near Canton, Kentucky; parapets similar to Dover but no nests have been built. Lock F near Eddyville, Kentucky; 3 or 4 nests under parapets and a few of the swallows were present.

On July 25, I made the following notes on the Tennessee River. At Peter's Landing, on the east bank, there were ledges overhanging the water simliar to Swallow Bluff, but no swallow nests were seen. At Swallow Bluff Ldg., at the north end of the island and on the west bank, about 150 nests were seen at 15 feet. above low water. This gruop was described in the last *Migrant*. A mile further upstream (southward) and 30 feet above low water, about 50 nests were found and three-quarters of a mile further south, 218 nests were built on the cliff about 15 feet above low water. While examining some of the first group of nests we found two of them occupied by snakes, one with his head and neck protruding from a stem shaped entrance. They were about 18 inches long. Both snakes were killed and in each there was an adult swallow. On August 11, at Lock and Dam No. 2 at Florence, Alabama, I saw about 4,000 swallows and martins, most of them being perched very close together on two wires spanning 300 feet above the canal. I did not have opportunity to examine here or at Wilson Dam for nests but if found there later, the fact will be reported. The colony of Cliff Swallows which Mr. Howell recorded many years ago as being on the face of Paint Rock Cliff, on the river west of Guntersville, is still in existence. Mr. A. E. Dykes reported to me on July 2, that the nests were built about two-thirds the way up the high cliff, under an overhanging ledge.—S. A. WEAKLEY, Nashville.

THE SEASON AT NORRIS: During the course of the summer, two birds, both formerly believed to be quite uncommon in this area, have proven to be present in some numbers. One of these is the Bachman's Sparrow whose distinctive song is highly characteristic of the brushy fields throughout the area. The bird is still singing at this date—September 9. The other, the Black-throated Green Warbler has been seen in four different localities near Norris, and on July 8 an adult male was seen feeding a young bird which was scarcely able to fly. Subsequent trips revealed family groups in three other places. These Warblers seem to prefer hillsides of short-leafed and scrub pine, adjoining a deciduous woodland. The highest altitude at which the latter species has been found here is 1350 feet.——Three other summer Warblers of interest are the Cerulean, Parula and Pine. The first two species were observed feeding young near Norris Dam and the last mentioned was found in pine woods on Reservoir Hill.——On August 23 I made a short trip to the artificial lake near Caryville and found the following "water" birds: Great Blue Heron, American Egret, Little Blue Heron, Green Heron, Killdeer, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral and Least Sandpipers. Since that time, Louis Kalter and the writer have made there the following interesting records: Sora, Semipalmated Plover (about 2,000), Cliff Swallows, 25 Bobolinks (200 more on August 30) on August 26; Baird's Sandpiper (Details on this later) and Semipalmated Sandpipers on August 27; Blue-winged Teal on August 30; Least Bittern and Green-winged Teal on September 9.——A number of birds have 'picked up' and are singing again; the Indigo Bunting, Maryland Yellowthroat and Prairie Warbler, all were singing rather frequently during the first week in September.—GEORGE FOSTER, Norris, Tenn.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHERS were more numerous about Nashville during the present fall migration than ever recorded before. In *The Migrant* for Dec. 1935, p. 93, the writer gave two previous records; one on Aug. 29, 1915, and one on Aug. 17, 1935; both in the wooded Noel's Pasture south of town. On the afternoon of August 22, 1936, I thought I would search the same locality and was so fortunate as to again find one of the birds present. The next morning I searched similar localities for others and recorded two more, less than half a mile apart and about 3 miles from the first locality. On Sept. 6, John B. Calhoun, while at my camp on Stone's River, pointed out to me one of the birds sitting in the dead top of a large oak and the next morning I saw another three miles away. On the following days, Calhoun, making a special search for them, found two more, one of them being in the Noel's pasture above mentioned. The eighth record for the season was made on Sept. 11, by the writer, just south of Shelbyville, Tenn. In addition to the above records, G. R. Mayfield has two as follows: Sept. 9, 1929, near Stone's River and May 5, 1933, on the Vanderbilt campus. This usually rare transient has certain habits which make it easy to find when present, viz., it nearly always seeks the top of a tall, dead tree, or the dead top of a live tree, as a perch and from there makes short flying excursions to catch winged insects. It looks like a very large Wood Pewee, but, in addition to greater size, its bill and head are much larger in proportion to its body and the olive sides can readliy be noted. It also bears a resemblance to the Kingbird.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville.

"HE CALLED FOR A CAMERA": On the morning of August 4th, the Knoxville News-Sentinel printed in the center of its front page, a beautiful picture of two Little Blue Herons, in white plumage, on the rocks in the Tennessee River under the new Henly bridge. In addition to a "story" under the picture, the editorial quoted below appeared.—H. P. IJAMS, Knoxville.

"HE CALLED FOR A CAMERA

Recently three herons, birds rarely seen in this section, flew down on the river to feed and sun themselves.

There was a time, and not so many years ago, when they would have been shot as game or through curiosity, by the first person who spied them. But Tuesday when they visited here the first citizen who saw them called, not for a gun, but for a camera. The result was that a picture of these beautiful birds was transmitted to the thousands of readers of The News-Sentinel.

The incident is inspiring evidence of the change in attitude towards Nature's wild creatures. The new attitude reflects the more ethical ideals and the educational campaign to spread them, sponsored over many years by the fine organizations of sportsmen and wild-life lovers of America. Men would now protect and cherish these wild creatures, not destroy them.

Some seventy-five years ago, Emerson adorned the idea of the conservation of Nature's wild life in beautiful poetical language, beginning—

"Hast thou named all the birds without a gun?
"Loved the wood-rose and left it on its stem?"—

George Shropshire in calling for a photographer to picture these beautiful birds fulfilled in 1936 the gentle teachings of Emerson three-quarters of a century ago."

NOTE:—Mr. Ijams has kindly furnished us with a copy of the beautiful photograph referred to and it is reproduced on another page. We are not informed as to the author of the splendid editorial but strongly believe that H. P. had a good deal to do with it.—EDITOR.

CHAPTER MEETING DATES AND NEWS

Members of local chapters will please take note of the following calendar of meeting dates for the balance of the year.

NASHVILLES Regular evening meetings are scheduled for Sept. 21, Oct. 5, 18 (Fall Field Day), Nov. 2, 16, 30, Dec. 4 and 27 (Christmas Census). These meetings are held on Monday evenings at 7:30 p. m. in the Social-Religious Building of Peabody College. All members and friends are requested to attend and bring interested friends. The Fall Field Day will be held Sunday, Oct. 18, at Cheek's old tavern and cave on Red River in Robertson County. This is 33 miles north of Nashville on highway 41, the old Louisville Pike. It will be held jointly with the Kentucky Ornithological Society and a good turnout of T. O. S. members is requested to greet our fellow bird students from the Bluegrass State.——KNOXVILLE: President W. M. Walker sends the following list of meeting dates with their locations and sponsors. Sept. 20, Island Home, John J. Hay; Sept. 27, Lake Andrew Jackson, W. M. Walker; Oct. 7, Flowercroft, L. E. Hofferbert; Oct. 18, State Game Farm (Grainger County) Dr. E. B. Powers; Oct. 25, Big Ridge Park, Jim Trent, Jr., Nov. 4, Flowercroft, Miss Mary Beard; Nov. 15, W. M. Johnson's farm, Miss Lora Bond, Dec. 21, Flowercroft, W. M. Walker and Dec. 20 or 27, Christmas Census, George Foster.——MEMPHIS: The schedule provides for the first fall meeting to occur September 28 at The Natural History Museum in Chickasaw Park, and every 2 weeks thereafter, with a Field Day late in October. Dr. Clarence F. Moore is president. The elected Secretary, Franklin McCamey, will be missed this season, he having won a scholarship at Yale University, entering in September. He has done some splendid ornithological work at Memphis and his absence will be keenly felt. Another active member, John Jackson, has won a scholarship at the University of Kentucky.

CLARKSVILLE: This chapter, Dr. C. F. Pickering, president, meets every second Tuesday night. Their dates are September 29, October 13, 27, November 10, 24, December 8, etc. The group now numbers 16 members. John Lewis and Alfred Clebsch, Jr., were appointed curators and are making a collection of empty nests. The total list of birds observed in the county, during 1936, has grown to 140 species.——MURFREESBORO: Secretary H. O. Todd writes that the next meeting of his chapter will be on October 16, at State Teachers College and other regular meetings will follow. He has been making a detailed study of the nesting habits of the birds of his area.

ROAN MOUNTAIN, in northeast Tennessee, was visited last June—the 22nd to the 27th—by a group of 12 of our members, for the chief purpose of studying the bird life. The highest point on the mountain is 6313 feet and headquarters were made at the lodge, about 200 feet lower. The mountain "top" extends for several miles and its flora and fauna is that of the Canadian zone. An annotated list of the birds has been prepared and will be published later. Those who went, so thoroughly enjoyed the expedition that they voted for a similar one next June. The party consisted of Mr. and Mrs. John Bamberg, F. S. Carpenter, Alfred Clebsch, Jr., Dr. C. C. Counce, Prof. Geo. Davis, Miss Amy Dean, A. F. Ganier, R. B. Lyle, Miss Evelyn Schneider, Miss Mabel Slack and our president, Bruce P. Tyler.

Chimney Swifts remain until about Oct. 20; please report your last dates.

THE MIGRANT

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"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough, it is not necessary to go beyond it."

EDITORIAL CHAT

Ornithology—the study of birds—is defendably the most fascinating of all outdoor pastimes for the cultured mind. It opens a door for personal study of virile subjects in woods and fields, along trails and brooks. Supplemented by a charming literature, progress in its study is absorbing rather than tedious. Their enthusiasm and pleasure is very frequently voiced by our members in their letters to the Editor and from the current mail he takes the privilege of quoting a paragraph from the letter of one of our newer members: "I do not believe I ever got into anything more interesting than birds. Have done less fishing this summer than ever before—all my spare time having been spent with the birds. It is certainly a study that becomes more and more interesting as one advances."

The T. O. S. is a going organization because its members have a great interest in common. When members get together they have much to relate in the way of the latest "bird news." How interesting it would be if each member could receive from all the others, a letter giving the highlights during the past three months—*provided* he didn't have to answer them all. Obviously this would be impossible but we have, as a nearest approach, this little journal. It takes a great deal of correspondence and many pages of writing to produce each number. Think of it then, as a basket of letters to YOU—letters which do not carry the burden of a reply.

The drouth of the past summer, mentioned on this page in our last issue and one of the worst on record for the State, was finally broken by copious general rains on July 2 and 3. Good rainfall during July, brought vegetation back in a manner almost unbelievable and far more birds than usual engaged in late nesting.

When this issue reaches our readers, the leaves will be turning to gold and brown and the cool nights of early fall will be at hand. The great migration of birds will be under way and trips afield will find feathered visitors from the north in transit, or shifting about in search of winter quarters. More than half of the transients are young birds, bound for foreign lands—they know not where they are going but, by irrepressible impulse, they are on their way. Make it a point to spend much time in the open at this season; to many, it is the most glorious time of the year.

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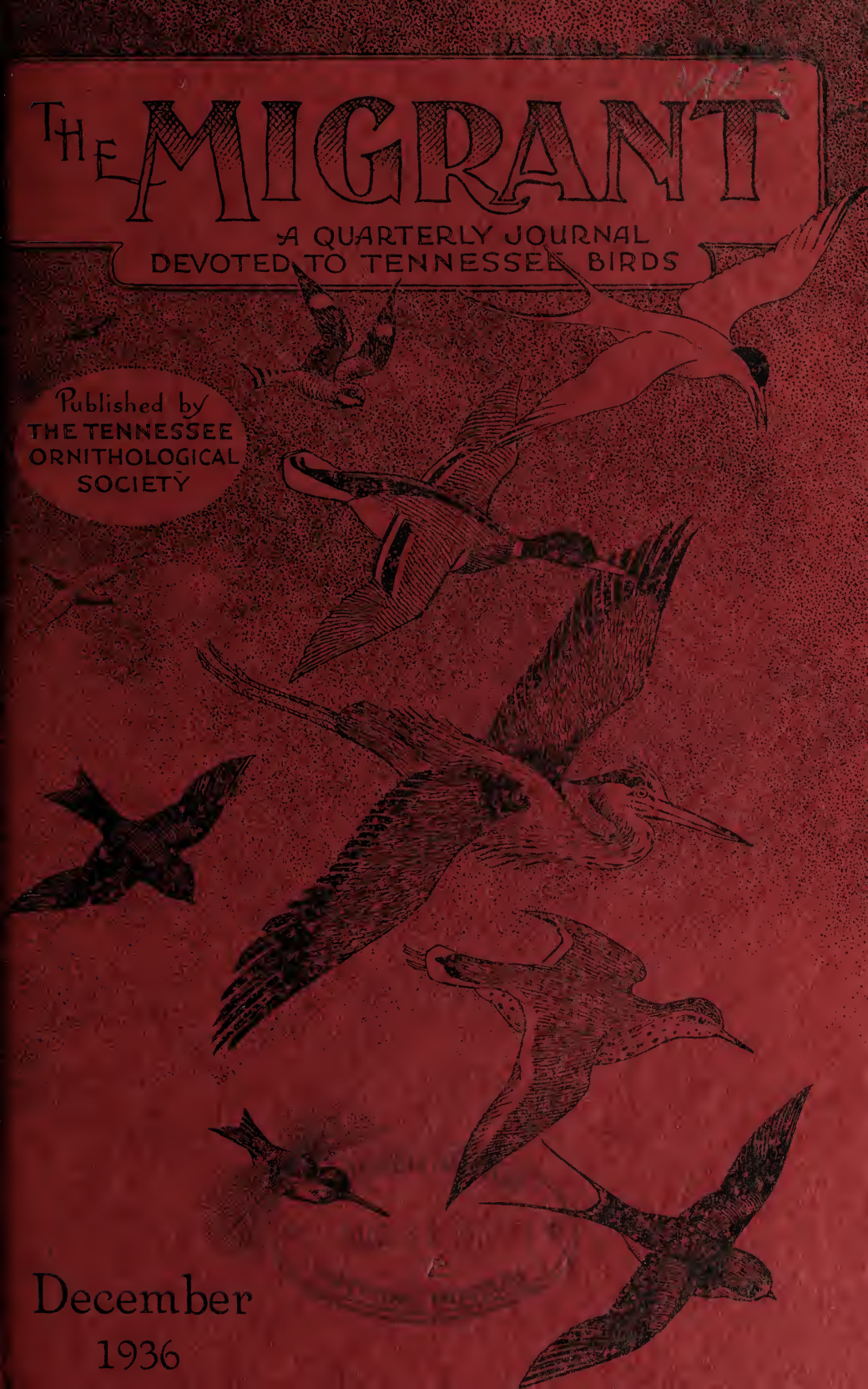

December
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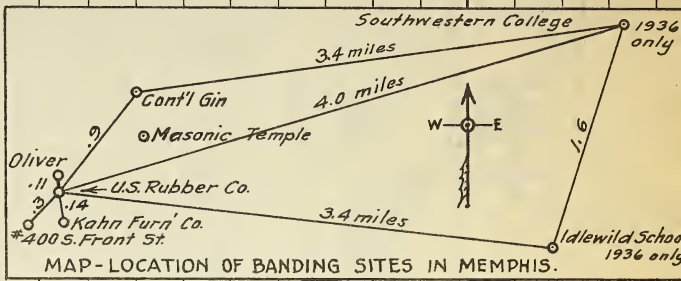
DATE OF RECOVERY	PLACE OF BANDING	NUMBER EXAMINED	NUMBER BANDED	Oct. 20	Oct. 10	Oct. 10	Oct. 12	Oct. 13	Oct. 20	Sept. 22	Sep. 28	Sep. 28	Sep. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 5	Oct. 6	Oct. 9	Oct. 1	Oct. 1	Aug. 31	Sep. 2	Oct. 1	Oct. 8	
1932																								
Oct. 20	Masonic Temple	800	500	—																				
1933																								
Oct. 10	" "	1300	517	—	—																			
1934																								
Oct. 10	U.S. Rubber Co.	24	24	—	—	—																		
12	Kahn Furniture Co.	223	223	—	—	—	—																	
13	U.S. Rubber Co.	336	336	1	—	—	1	—																
20	Oliver Farm Equip' Co.	406	406	1	—	—	—	1	—															
1935																								
Sep. 21	" " " "	940	890	—	2	—	1	—	1															
22	#400 S. Front St.	166	166	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—													
28	Oliver Farm Equip'	226	61	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—												
30	" " "	522	522	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—											
Oct. 1	" " "	35	35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—										
5	U.S. Rubber Co.	466	466	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—									
6	#400 S. Front St.	202	202	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—								
9	Continental Gin Co.	1368	953	1	—	—	—	1	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—							
12	U.S. Rubber Co.	520	520	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—						
19	Oliver Farm Equip'	85	85	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—					
1936																								
Aug. 31	U.S. Rubber Co.	231	231	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	—	1	—	3	1	2	—	—	—				
Sep. 2	Oliver Farm Equip'	33	33	—	—	—	—	—	—				1-1935							2	—			
Oct. 1	Southwestern College	850	820	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	2	1	3	1	4*	—	1	—	—	2	—	—		
8	Idlewild School	1514	1514	—	2	—	1	—	2	12	2	—	2	—	—	4	3	2	2	1	—	8	—	
10	Continental Gin Co.	17	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	
	Total Local Returns			5	6		3	2	5	25	7	1	6	1	6*	5	9	2	2					
	Total Foreign Recoveries of Mrs Swiffs			5	5	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	1					
	Out of Number Banded			500	517	24	223	336	406	890	166	61	522	35	466	202	953	520	85					



MAP - LOCATION OF BANDING SITES IN MEMPHIS.

SUMMARY OF RETURNS

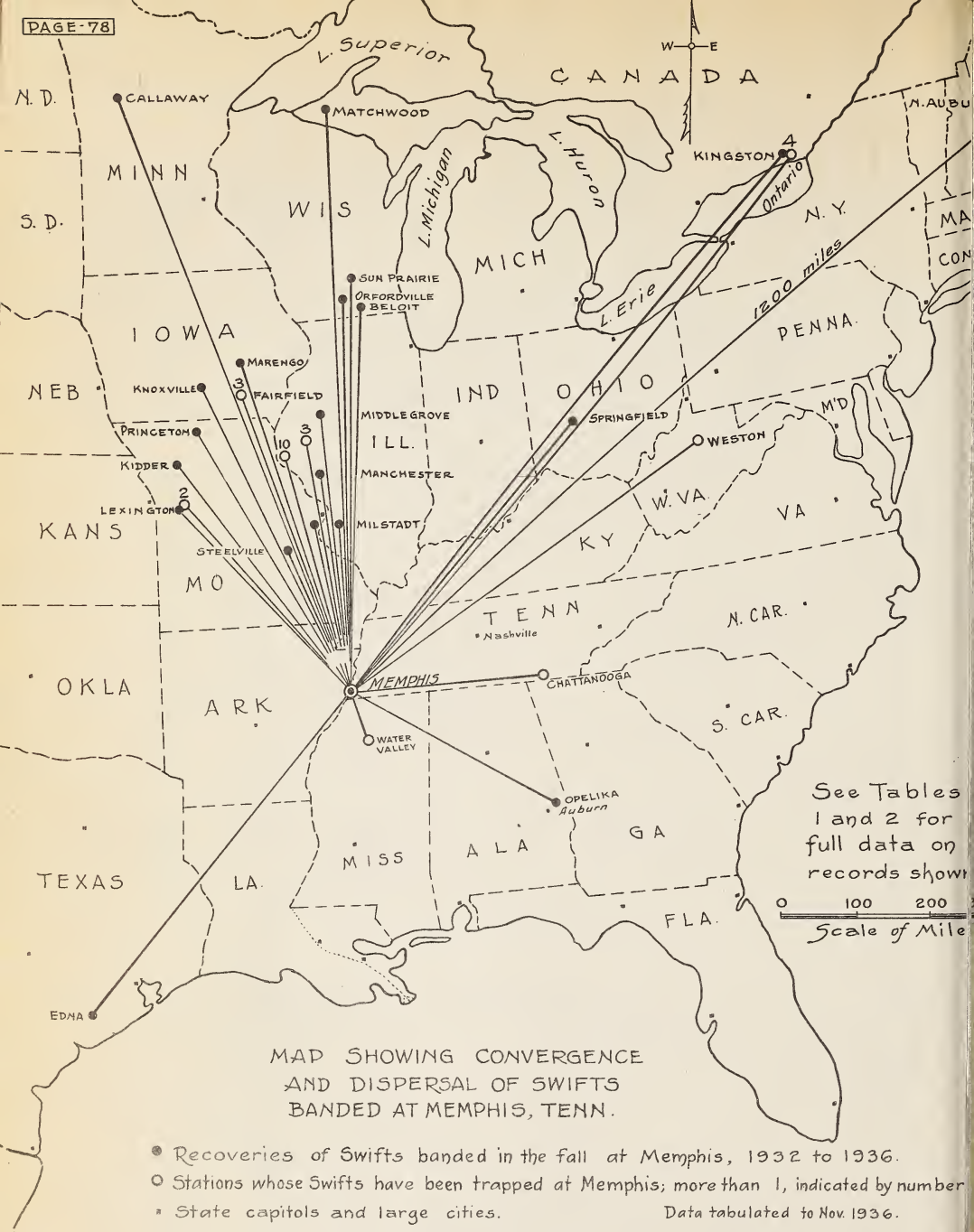
From	500	517	990	39
'32				
'33				
'34				

* 36-4126 recovered Aug. 31 and Oct. 1

Examined				
1300 - 1933	0			
990 - 1934	2	0		
4530 - 1935	3	4	7	
2645 - 1936	0	2	3	6
TOTALS	5	6	10	6

TABLE 3

LOCAL RETURNS AND REPEATS OF SWIFTS BANDED AT MEMPHIS



MAP SHOWING CONVERGENCE AND DISPERSAL OF SWIFTS BANDED AT MEMPHIS, TENN.

● Recoveries of Swifts banded in the fall at Memphis, 1932 to 1936.

○ Stations whose Swifts have been trapped at Memphis; more than 1, indicated by number

▪ State capitols and large cities.

Data tabulated to Nov. 1936.

TABLE 4 - RECOVERIES, YEARS AFTER BANDING.

YEARS →	0	½	1	1½	2	2½	3	3½	4	5
FOREIGN, AT MEMPHIS	1	4	5	1	6	1	2	1	2	1
MEMPHIS, ELSEWHERE	0	-	13*	-	6	-	1	-	0	×
MEMPHIS AT MEMPHIS	×	-	72	-	9	-	5	-	0	×

* OUT OF PROPORTION, DUE TO LARGE NUMBER BANDED IN 1935.

THE MIGRANT

VOL. VII DECEMBER, 1936 NO. 4

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CHIMNEY SWIFT MIGRATION AT MEMPHIS

By Ben B. Coffey, Jr.

For the last five autumns, large numbers of Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica)* have been banded here at Memphis, Tenn., and a careful record kept of these operations. They are taken in traps which are placed over the tops of individual chimneys before the roosting flocks emerge, normally at daybreak. The technique of trapping is somewhat similar to that described by Prof. Wyman R. Green of work done by him at Chattanooga (see *Wilson Bulletin* 1930, V. 42, pp. 110-118) and for lack of space will not be detailed in the present article. A photo of one of our traps in operation, however, will be found in *The Migrant* for Sept., 1935.

Chimney Swifts are ceaseless flyers, stopping only to cling to the sides of a chimney or rarely, within hollow trees or the side walls of some abandoned and remote cabin. Their diet is therefore wholly insectivorous, a fact which makes them extremely valuable to man. Most migrating birds travel by night but Swifts spend their nights in suitable roosting places and migrate by day, feeding when necessary during the course of their unhurried flight. For this reason they seemingly avoid any long trip over water but follow a land route. Thus they travel the long circuitous route presumably overland thru Mexico and Guatemala to their winter home, as yet unknown to ornithologists but believed to be in northern South America. This may explain the apparent southwestward movement of many swifts from the Northeast, referred to later.

A map and two tables, Nos. 1 and 2, are presented herewith to show the convergence and dispersal of Swifts banded at Memphis. None of our birds have been heard from after they have left Memphis, before the next spring on their return. One banded Oct. 20, 1934, has been reported southwest of here, at Edna, Texas, found dead May 6, 1935. This may indicate a late migrant; a Swift banded a week earlier was trapped on May 8, 1935 at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. These two were 1,500 miles apart at about the same time. The lone recovery southeast of here was a 1933 swift trapped Oct. 6, 1936 by H. S. Peters at Opelika, Ala. This does not necessarily indicate a movement from Memphis southeast; the more probable explanation is that this Swift, from some point much farther north, took a different route south one fall than it or it's companions normally use. Even so; such a case is apparently an exception, judging by the fact that Mr. Peters trapped 21,500 swifts this fall (1936) in the Auburn, Ala. and Atlanta, Ga. areas and this was the only one of our 5,907 recovered. Only as late as last year had we tagged 3,900. Twenty-three other of his recoveries were from Kingston, Ont., Weston, W. Va., and other points north and northeast, with nearly half from Kingston. A similar explanation can be made for the

1930 Chattanooga Swift which we trapped here on Oct. 12, 1934. At Water Valley, Miss., M. M. Turner and E. Earl Bell have banded a total of 2,366 swifts, from Sept., 1931 to 1935, inclusive, and only one of their birds was trapped here altho Mr. Turner has one Iowa recovery recorded. Their other recoveries are reported from Ohio to New Hampshire. Their "foreign" birds were from Kingston and Weston but none from Memphis or the Quincy, Ill. area.

The bulk of our recoveries and our "foreign" birds are from points in the Mississippi Valley above Memphis. Reference to the map will show, however, that we have enough records of both kinds from the northeast to indicate at least a partial southwestward movement of Swifts from that area in the fall. Unfortunately we do not have any recoveries, as noted previously, of our birds after they leave us going south. Mr. Musselman of Quincy, Ill., however, reports some recoveries of his birds from Texas. While Mr. Peters secured ten Kingston swifts out of over 21,500 examined this fall we secured two out of 2,645 examined at the same time. Figuring on a proportional basis would not be accurate, we believe, because on such a low recovery as two, chance plays too great a part. If we had examined 10,000 the picture would be clearer. Out of 4,530 examined in 1935 we only had two Kingston birds, and none from 1932 to 1934 when we handled an average of 1,000 birds each fall. Meanwhile Water Valley picked up a few from Kingston and Weston and Prof. Green at Chattanooga had 12 from Weston among 10,660 swifts trapped there the fall of 1929.

Only once has a Swift banded north of us during fall migration been recovered here that same season. 34-39981 banded by Irvin Sturgis at Lexington, Mo., on Aug. 16, 1935, was taken by us on Oct. 19, 1935, in the last flock we trapped that year. The Kingston Swifts were banded in spring and re-taken here the following fall, two last year and two this year. Two from the same flock—May 24, 1935, at Kingston—were trapped here on the divergent dates of Sept. 21, and Oct. 19, 1935.

A study of Table 3, showing local returns and repeats, will give some idea of local movements. I will not analyze it in detail but will describe some of our experiences with the flocks. It will be noted that a few Swifts banded at the start of the season are re-trapped at later dates, sometimes in our last catch. Swifts banded in former years do not always return about the same time but may be picked up as returns any day in September or October. However, it is my belief, based on the following experiences, that these divergent returns are exceptions—not uncommon but, nevertheless, exceptions.

In 1932 and 1933 we had only 500 bands and trapped only once each fall. The 1933 flock we worked numbered about 5,000. Part came out in the morning, part about noon, and the remainder spent the day down the chimney. A large number were allowed to escape but we examined 1,300 and found not a 1932 Swift. We trapped Oct. 20 in 1932 and Oct. 10 in 1933 at the same large chimney. But the 1933 flock evidently contained few, if any, members of the 1932 flock. In 1934 we secured 1,000 bands but our big chimney was covered over, so we had to "work" for our 990, trapping four times at other places. From Oct. 10 to 20, we secured two 1932 birds. This was a very poor showing, especially whencompared with results at Quincy and Clayton, Ill. Evidently a much larger number of them pass thru Memphis than was ordinarily assumed.

TABLE I.—SWIFTS BANDED AT MEMPHIS AND RECOVERED ELSEWHERE.

1932 Oct. 20 (Banded 500)			
1933—May 13	H59990	Millstadt, Ill.	caught by a cat.
1934—June 1	H59504	Raleigh (Memphis)	caught in house, died of starvation.
June 8	H59570	Matchwood, Mich.	found dead.
June 13	H59908	Princeton, Mo.	captured, released.
July 23	H59528	Springfield, Ohio	captured in chimney.
1933 Oct. 10 (Banded 517)			
1934—May 3	H61003	Manchester, Ill.	found dead.
June 17	L25005	Orfordville, Wis.	found dead in chimney.
1935—April 15	H61109	Steelville, Mo. (20 miles south)	came down chimney, probably released.
Aug. 5	H61318	Knoxville, Iowa	found dead.
1936—Oct. 6	H61466	Opelika, Ala.	trapped and released.
1934 Oct. 10 to 20 (Banded 990)			
1935—May 6	34-71811	Edna, Texas	found dead.
May 8	34-71508	Kingston, Ont.	trapped and released.
Aug. 31	34-71090	Middle Grove, Ill.	caught and released.
Sept. 21	34-71049	Lexington, Mo.	trapped and released.
1935 Sept. 21 to Oct. 19 (Banded 3900)			
1936—May 20	36-4512	near Marengo, Iowa	found dead.
May 27	36-7521	Sun Prairie, Wis.	caught in building.
June 6	36- 478	North Auburn, Me.	found injured, died.
June 19	36-4078	Callaway, Minn.	found dead in chimney.
July 1	36-4521	Kidder, Mo.	had nest in chimney.
Sept. 29	36-1303	Kirkwood, Mo.	found dead.
Oct. 2	36-4745	Beloit, Wis.	traped and released.

Total banded at Memphis, 5907.

TABLE II.—SWIFTS BANDED ELSEWHERE (FOREIGN) AND RECOVERED AT MEMPHIS.

Place.	*Date Banded.*	*Number.*	*Trapped Here*
Quincy, Ill.	Oct. 3, 1930	C31694	Oct. 8, 1936
(Dr. T. E. Musselman)	Sept. 6, 1931	C96417	Oct. 10, 1933
	Sept. 20, 1931	B175076	Oct. 10, 1933
	Sept. 27, 1931	C96681	Oct. 10, 1933
	Sept. 19, 1931	C96633	Oct. 12, 1934
	Sept. 22, 1931	A162332	Oct. 9, 1935
	Sept. 11, 1932	B173694	Sept. 30, 1935
	Aug. 30, 1933	H52730	Oct. 6, 1935
	Oct. 10, 1933	F127742	Oct. 1, 1936
	Oct. 20, 1934	F127803	Oct. 1, 1936
Clayton, Ill.	Sept. 7, 1932	C91672	Oct. 10, 1933
(Mr. Russell S. Davis)	Sept. 11, 1933	C92213	Oct. 20, 1934
	Sept. 11, 1933	C92038	Oct. 12, 1935
Fairfield, Iowa	May 13, 1933	L17094	Oct. 20, 1934
(Prof. Carl Welty)	May 13, 1933	L17946	Oct. 1, 1936
	May 12, 1934	34-126196	Oct. 1, 1936
Lexington, Mo.	Aug. 15, 1935	34-39901	Oct. 1, 1936
(Mr. Irvin Sturgis)	Aug. 16, 1935	34-39981	Oct. 19, 1935
Kingston, Ont.	May 24, 1935	34-41109	Sept. 21, 1935
(Miss Ida Merriman)	May 24, 1935	34-41409	Oct. 19, 1935
	May 16, 1936	34-45159	Oct. 8, 1936
	May 24, 1936	34-47101	Oct. 8, 1936
Weston, W. Va.	Sept. 21, 1934	34-57799	Sept. 28, 1935
(Mr. I. H. Johnston)			
Chattanooga, Tenn.	Sept. 24 1930	C59861	Oct. 12, 1934
(Prof. Wyman R. Green)			
Water Valley, Miss.	Sept. 8, 1935	35-136326	Oct. 8, 1936
(Mr. M. M. Turner)			

On Oct. 12, 1934 the Swifts emerged late and banding the 223 birds was completed late in the evening, just about time for the flock to be circling. We did not expect any birds nor have any here; however, we set up our trap at a roost less than two blocks away and expected many of those 223 birds to move to the second chimney. The last ones banded did not have much time to go elsewhere but next morning, of the 336 birds we caught, only one bore a band attached the day before.

In 1935 we started earlier, and, dissatisfied with the paucity of our returns, kept going, banding ten times and having sufficient bands on all except one occasion. In 1936 we were ready to start, still earlier, the middle of August, but the Swifts wouldn't "play ball" with us and use our low uptown chimneys which we watched night after night for two months—a repetition of our 1936 spring campaign which netted not a swift. Where we banded 3,900 swifts in the fall of 1935 we only secured 381 this fall. All flocks seen uptown were very small, meanwhile flocks of 3,000 to 5,000 were using high chimneys on schools and similar buildings out in the city. Still, I do not believe trapping alienates them from favored chimneys. Each night the flock present is a new one with less than five or six repeats and it either assembles and goes down a certain chimney or uses another somewhere else. In 1935 we often watched, enviously, some 2,000 to 5,000 swifts pour down the St. Agnes Academy chimney which was much too high for us to place a trap. It had been in use as a roost previous seasons also but in 1936 not a flock used this chimney.

After the first trappings in 1935, the flocks decreased in size and I made no plans as the next week-end approached. That Saturday evening, Sept. 28, I noticed swifts coming from the southeast in waves similar to swallows. Evidently a heating plant had been put in service, probably at St. Agnes Academy, forcing a large flock to seek quarters elsewhere. About 1,500 circled over the Oliver chimney while another 1,500 went down a chimney in a vacant building two blocks south (we trapped last year at both locations). A few from Oliver dropped in but soon emerged as the chimney was still hot altho the fire was discontinued at noon. As it grew dark this flock moved off and went down the other chimney too. Failing after several hours to contact the party with keys to this building, I decided to watch again Sunday evening when the Oliver flue should have cooled off. About 1,500 went down and I recruited a few helpers for next morning, Sept. 30, though it was a work day and school day. I did not cover the chimney or place the trap in position for fear the occupants should decide to start up the heating boiler. We were delayed the next morning but Swifts were still emerging as I reached the roof and raced to place a heavy cardboard over the opening. We banded 522 and found 3 that had been banded on the 22nd, three-tenths of a mile south, but none of those banded at this same chimney on the 21st. Since approximately 1,000 swifts had emerged in a normal fashion, without a covering or trap to disturb inherent instincts, I reasoned many should return that night and planned accordingly. Only 35 to 40 did. Mrs. Coffey and I, however, caught these before work hours and found a 1932 return among them.

The next week-end on Friday night, Oct. 5, about 4,000 swifts went down

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 96)

SUMMER BIRDS OF ROAN MOUNTAIN

By Albert F. Ganier

Roan Mountain is situated on the line between Tennessee and North Carolina, about 33 miles south of the Virginia line. It is a part of the Unaka chain and its altitude (6313 ft. s. l.) is unsurpassed in the Eastern United States, except for a few peaks in the Mount Mitchell group and in the Great Smokies, 90 miles to the southwest. Roan Mountain proper extends from Carver's Gap (5500 ft.) in a southwesterly direction about 5 miles to a bit beyond Roan High Bluff (6287 ft.). Along this line we encounter, at mile 0.7, Roan High Knob (6313 ft.); at mile 1.3, site of the former Cloudland Inn (6150 ft.); the present lodge (6100 ft.) and the spring (6000 ft.); at mile 1.5, Sunset Rock (6200 ft); at mile 1.7 to 2.0, the Rhododendron "Gardens," (5600-6000 ft.); and finally Roan High Bluff, above mentioned. A half mile to the east of The Gap, Little Roan Mountain rises to 5700 ft. and this area is included in the present paper.

The mountain, say from about 5000 ft. upward, is of the Canadian Zone in its fauna and flora. This is particularly evidenced by the presence, from the High Bluff to the High Knob, of an almost unbroken line, at or near the summits, of balsam fir *(Abies frasari)*, red spruce *(Pica rubra)* and in places the dwarf shrub, sand myrtle *(Dendrium buxifolium)*. Much of the actual summit consists of "balds" on which a short coarse grass grows thickly to form mountain meadows. Dotted about in some of these meadows are clumps and areas of rhododendrons, which here reach the greatest perfection in flower and form. One area of about 100 acres is very aptly called "The Rhododendron Gardens" and when in full bloom, about mid-June, the floral display of these shrubs is gorgeous. A half mile east of Roan High Bluff, on a bench of the mountain side, lies The Big Meadow (5200-5700 ft.) dotted and surrounded by the low growing, picturesque mountain beeches. The top of Little Roan is similar to the last mentioned area.

The summer temperature of the mountain is quite surprising in that it is probably the coolest place in the eastern United States at that season. The thermometer rarely registers above 60 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade on clear days and more often ranges below that at mid-day. On one morning, June 18, the writer witnessed frost, while on that day at Knoxville, in the valley, temperatures ranged from 76 to 98 degrees.

Within recent years, the once splendid forests of fir and spruce have been cut out, nearly to the tops, thus damaging the scenic aspects and perhaps altering the bird life to some extent. All in all, Roan Mountain is pleasingly different from any other, in many ways the queen of eastern mountains and the time will doubtless come when it will be added to our great system of National Parks.

Ornithologists on three previous occasions have visited this mountain in summer and published papers* which included notes on its breeding birds. Unfortunately, none of these writers has made a definite separation of the species found "on top" and those found on the slopes at much lower altitudes. Too often their records refer merely to "Roan Mountain" without any clue as to whether on top or perhaps well down on the slopes.

The week of June ~~15~~ 22 to ~~20~~ 27 inclusive, of 1936, was spent on Roan Mountain by a party of twelve bird students** including the writer. Our purpose was to make as complete a list as possible of the breeding birds to be found about the summits. We confined our observations to the area lying above the 5000 foot contour, which area approximately embraces the Canadian zone. Except for a few hours of rain or heavy fog, we were afield continuously and covered every part of the mountain top. Our list for the area mentioned totaled 32 species but doubtless a few other species were present that escaped our attention. The subspecies shown are not based on specimens, except as noted, but are those believed to be the prevailing form. The list follows:

TURKEY VULTURE *(Cathartes aura septentrionalis)*.—Noted soaring along the mountain top, as many as 5 on one occasion.

EASTERN RED-TAILED HAWK *(Butea b. borealis)*.—One observed soaring above Little Roan and another, a half mile south of Roan High Bluffs.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK *(Accipiter velox)*.—An individual noted near the lodge, by Carpenter, was believed to be this species though it may have been a male Cooper's Hawk.

DUCK HAWK *(Falco peregrinus anatum)*.—One flew low over the "Rhododendron Gardens" on June 22, with prey in its talons. A "Peregrine" was also observed around Roan High Point, by Tyler, on June 24. The cliffs at the High Bluff, which I lacked time to examine closely, seemed well adapted to an eyrie.

EASTERN RUFFED GROUSE *(Bonasa u. umbellus)*.—A single bird observed in flight at Big Meadow. Conditions on this mountain, especially in the open beech forest, seem well suited to this species.

EASTERN BOB-WHITE *(Colinus v. virginianus)*.—One heard far down the mountainside. Conditions on top would seem suitable for it in summer.

CHIMNEY SWIFT *(Chaetura pelagica)*.—Noted daily, sometimes eight or ten at a time. With only three or four chimneys on the mountain and those in use, it is probable that they descend to the valleys to nest and roost. Observed flying about evenings when it was nearly dark.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD *(Archilochus colubris)*.—Observed daily, our record cards showing eight seen at various points along the summits. Most often seen in the Rhododendron Gardens feeding upon the profuse flowers of this shrub. Tyler states that here he counted about fifty on June 23, 1935.

NORTHERN FLICKER *(Colaptes auratus luteus)*.—Apparently rare, for only two were seen on top.

EASTERN HAIRY WOODPECKER *(Dryobates v. vilosus)*.—Seen on four occasions, once in the same buckeye tree with a pair of Downys.

NORTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER *(Dryobates pubescens medianus)*.—A pair observed at Big Meadow (5600 ft.) and a single bird at 5900 ft.

PRAIRIE HORNED LARK *(Octocoris alpestris praticola)*.—A pair and a young

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*References; (a) 1887, Sennett. George B., "Observations in Western Norh Carolina Mountains in 1886," Auk, 4:240-245; he was on Roan Mtn. April 24 to 29 and during most of July: 1895, Rhoads S. N., "Contributions to the Zoology of Tenn.—Birds" Proc. Phil. Acad. Sci., 1895, pp 463-501; he was on and about the mountain from June 18 to 23: (c) 1912, Bruner, S. C. and Field A. L., "Notes on the birds observed on a trip through the mountains of western Norh Carolina," Auk, 29:368-377; they were on Roan Mtn. and its slopes from June 29 to July 9, recording 32 species.

**The party consisted of Mr. and Mrs. John Bamberg, F. S. Carpenter, Alfred Clebsch, Jr., Dr. Cynthia C. Counce, George Davis, Miss Amy Deane, A. F. Ganier, R. B. Lyle, Miss Evelyn Schneider, Miss Mabel Slack and Bruce P. Tyler.

bird on the wing, were observed by all of us on the summit of Little Roan (5800 ft.) just s.w. of Carver's Gap. This is an extensive nearly bald summit; the grass on top is short and therefore suitable for this short-legged, ground walking bird. The presence of this species here, when it was doubtless nesting, was of particular interest. Messrs. Tyler and Lyle had previously reported it here, on June 30, 1935.

NORTHERN BLUE JAY *(Cyanocitta c. cristata).*—Apparently rare along the summits for only 3 were seen or heard. Duck Hawks are known to favor this species as prey.

NORTHERN RAVEN *(Corvus corax principalis).*—Perhaps the highlight of the trip was the sight of a flock of 7 or 8 of these birds on June 25, flying leisurely westward along the north side of Little Roan. Their flight was noticeably light and supple and they seemed to revel in following the air currents, up and down, with set wings after the manner of Turkey Vultures. Their bills are noticeably longer than those of Crows. We saw or heard one or more Ravens each day of our visit and at all points on the mountain. It would seem that they nest among the cliffs of Roan High Bluff or possibly in the fir trees, as they are known to do in Pennsylvania.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH *(Sitta canadensis).*—Generally distributed in the fir belt, having been found in 7 different locations. A nest was found by Bamberg on June 23, at 5900 ft., containing 5 nearly fresh eggs. It was built 9 feet above the ground and a foot below the top of a dead spruce stub 12 in. in diameter, on a cut-over slope. The tree was punky and the wood soft, so the Nuthatch had excavated its own characteristic hole to a depth of 9 inches. As usual with this species, a small amount of gum had been brought and applied to the exterior about the entrance. A scanty pad of soft inner fibres of bark was beneath the eggs. The bird flushed readily when the tree was pounded on but later became harder to evict as a series of photos were being taken. A new nest cavity, partly finished, was found in the dead top of a small buckeye at Big Meadow and in a nearby spruce, old birds were watched at 10 feet, feeding young as large as themselves. By this it would seem that there is an early season nesting as with the White-breasted Nuthatch.

EASTERN WINTER WREN *(Nannus h. hiemalis).*—Our record card shows the finding of 6 singing males, they being found at various points alongside the summits where the fir timber was still standing. A parent bird was noted carrying food to its young on June 25.

CATBIRD *(Dumetella carolinensis).*—Noted at four points along the tops.

EASTERN ROBIN *(Turdus m. migratorius).*—Quite common everywhere along the mountain. Three nests were examined; one with 4 incubated eggs in a spruce, one with 4 fresh eggs in a haw, and one with 2 eggs in a beech. A male and a female collected, on June 22 at 6000 ft., were identified as of this form by Dr. Oberholser.

VEERY *(Hylocichla f. fuscescens).*—Fairly common in the fir belt and down the slopes into the deciduous forest. In the edge of the latter, at Big Meadow (5500 ft.) a nest was found on June 24, with 3 nearly fresh eggs. It was built 2 feet above the ground in one of a patch of small beech sprouts in thick woods. The bulky nest was built on a foundation of beech leaves and was principally of weed stems and fibres. An old nest was found nearby on low limb of a small spruce.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD *(Sialia s. sialis).*—The one pair noted were on top of Little Roan (5800 ft.) on June 25, feeding 5 nearly fledged young in nest in cavity of a small buckeye 12 feet up.

CEDAR WAXWING *(Bombycilla cedrorum).*—Three seen near Cloudland (6100 ft.) on June 25, and two the following day at Big Meadows.

MOUNTAIN VIREO *(Vireo solitarius alticola).*—Five observed at various points, from near the summits to Big Meadows (5600 ft.) where Lyle found a nest on June 22 with 3 young ready to leave. One of these young was captured two days later by watching the parent carry food. The nest was 9 feet up at end of beech limb near border of deciduous woodland.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER *(Dendroica pensylvania).*—While we did not actually find this species "on top," yet it is worthy of record that a nest was found at 3700 ft. by Mr. Lyle on June 22. It was built 2 feet up in a small maple sprout and held 3 fresh eggs.

CANADA WARBLERS *(Wilsonia canadensis).*—Two pair were found on June 25, at elev. 5800 ft., south of The Gardens, and each were tending young. The following day we watched one pair for half an hour, the female carrying food, and finally decided that the young were already out of the nest.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK *(Hedymeles ludovicianus).*—A male observed singing on the south side of Little Roan, near top at elev. 5700 ft., in deciduous growth.

INDIGO BUNTING *(Passerina cyanea).*—Fairly common along the summits, being seen or heard at eight locations.

EASTERN GOLDFINCH *(Spinus t. tristis).*—Two individuals were noted, flying along the tops on different days.

RED-EYED TOWHEE *(Pipilo e. erythropthalmus).*—A pair dwelt on the very summit of Roan High Knob (6313 ft.) and males were seen or heard singing at four other points along the ridge.

CAROLINA JUNCO *(Junco hyemalis carolinensis).*—The most abundant bird on Roan Mountain, preferring the high ridge to the mountainside, though one was seen as low as 4000 ft. The second nesting was just under way, we having found eight nests all with 3 or 4 eggs. All nests were built on the ground except one which was 2 feet up in a small fir. Several old nests were among the roots of upturned trees. Many young of the first brood were being tended in the trees by the parents birds and their spotted breasts made them differ conspicuously from the old birds. Bread crumbs scattered about are greatly relished by the Juncos.

EASTERN VESPER SPARROW *(Pooecetes g. gramineus).*—We were pleased, and a little surprised to find one of these birds feeding on the grassy bald summit of Little Roan at elev. 5700 ft. It probably had a nest in the vicinity for conditions here were quite suitable.

MISSISSIPPI SONG SPARROW *(Melospiza melodia beata).*—Noted in five places, and usually several hundred feet below the tops, in the cut-over areas especially where there were small streams. The nest of one pair, at the spring (6000 ft.) near the lodge was found on June 22. It was tucked under the grass in the side of a gully and contained 5 eggs incubated about one week.

NASHVILLE, TENN., July, 1936.

THE AIR CIRCUS GOES SOUTH

By W. M. Walker

The big day was over as far as our presence was concerned. Messrs. George Davis of Murfreesboro, George Foster of Norris, John Hay, Charles Baird and the writer of Knoxville, were driving towards Nashville and homeward on the Dickerson Pike. Reluctantly, we had bid farewell to the members of the T.O.S. and K.O.S. who had attended the joint Fall Field Day meeting of October 18th, near the Kentucky state line.

Conversation in the automobile had been confined mainly to ornithological subjects such as banding, collecting, field studies, etc. I also was indulging in a little study—not of birds, but of the people in the car. And the most prominent activity was that constant searching of the road-side, the wood and fields, and even the distant sky-line. It wasn't unusual to have the conversation interrupted with "What was that?" or "Look over those woods!" and after the interruption the conversation resumed the original trend. But always that constant search continued.

We had passed through Goodlettsville proper and were near the school building when someone said, "Look to the left!" There, above the distant horizon, were two squadrons of black "specks" which emerged into one big group before the nearby hill obscured our view. Geese—that was the first guess, although we had no definite clues. Thanks to the sympathetic driving of Mr. Hay we soon had stopped off the pavement on top of a hill. A hurried scramble and the five of us watched the heterogeneous formation assume an irregular wave that slowly made a straight line at right angles to the line of flight. And then before the line was perfected, it began to bow in the middle until the formation became an immense arc.

As the glasses became focused on the birds there were exclamations of "Look at the white ones," "Look at the flashes of black wing tips," "Snow Geese," "Blue Geese," and "Boy, what a sight!" We became aware that the birds were coming closer, that they would cross our path on up ahead and then we hurried back into the car to match speed the best we could. Excitement ran high when congested traffic slowed us down. The geese gradually gained but we could see that their projected flight would again bring them near the highway some distance ahead. Even now, with the unaided eye, we could differentiate the white and dusky birds, we could see the wing beats of the individuals, we could hear the honking above the noise of the Sunday traffic.

Suddenly the geese noticeably changed their course, veering away. While we were counting them, George Foster noticed some with white head and neck. There at the back end of the V were some dusky birds with white heads. Formations were made and broken with regularity. At one time they flew four Vs in tandem. Truly, this was "flying circus" that few people people witness. Our next thought was to find a side road and endeavor to get nearer again. Full speed ahead this time with Old Hickory Boulevard as our goal. We rapidly outdistanced our quarry and took up a position a quarter to a half mile off the main highway. The location was perfect, the sun was to our back, the geese flying in a one-sided V with the long side quite irregular, were at a height of less than one thousand feet. On they came

with the slow, deeply arched wing-beat, the sun shining brightly against their glistening feathers; directly over us they came, flying slightly south of the sun.

Finally we assembled our observations. Five counts ranged from seventy-four to seventy-six, of which number five were adult Blue Geese, twenty-nine were adult Snow Geese and the remainder could have been immature Blue Geese or White-Fronted Geese. None of us could definitely identify them as the White-fronted, therefore we concluded the immature were the Snow and Blue. The voice of the birds was higher pitched than the honk of the Canada Goose. Perhaps the "lady geese" in the flock were having a Sunday afternoon social or were exchanging comments on the attention they had attracted from those curiosity seekers on the road below.

The excitement was over, our luck had been perfect, and we voted the day a huge success.

KNOXVILLE, TENN., Oct., 1936.

NOTE: Mr. Walker writes later that it was about 3:40 P.M. when they saw the flock of geese. Apparently Dr. Pickering saw the same flock a few minutes before at Clarksville, about 40 miles northwest and his observation follows.—EDITOR.

GEESE AT CLARKSVILLE: While afield on Oct. 18 near Clarksville, at about 3 P.M., I heard the honking of geese overhead and counting as well as I could I set the flock down on my list as 75. I at first supposed they were Canada Geese but as soon as I focused my glasses on them I noted that many were white with black tips on their wings and realized that they were Snow Geese. They flew "into" the sun about this time and I was unable to determine if there were also Blue Geese among them. They made quite a noise as they flew.—CHAS. F. PICKERING, Clarksville.

At Murfreesboro, Mr. Todd reports many flocks of geese passing south the last ten days in October and on the night of Oct. 29 several were killed near there from a passing flock. Two of those he saw later were Blue Geese, an immature and an adult. Mr. Dan Gray of Mt. Pleasant, reports that a small flock of Blue and Snow Geese stayed for a time on the Napier Lake near Columbia, in October. At Corinth, Miss., Mr. B. R. Warriner writes that on Oct. 15, at 8 P.M., he watched a flock of about 75 geese fly low over the city. The street lights and signs showed their white plumage clearly against the dark clouds beyond and he estimated them to be flying at about 300 feet. They appeared to be all Snow Geese. He says the heaviest flight of Canada Geese in years passed over in late October. In addition to the above, there were many other reports of "wild geese" passing over Middle Tennessee.—EDITOR.

OUR BIRD BANDERS: The U. S. Biological Survey has just published a list of 300 of its co-operators who have been most active in banding during the past year. In this national list the T. O. S. will be rather proud to hear that Mr. Ben B. Coffey of Memphis ranks fourth and Mrs. Amelia Laskey ranks seventeenth. The bulk of Mr. Coffey's 7553 bands were placed on roosting Chimney Swifts and nestling herons while Mrs. Laskey's were placed on a large variety of "home birds" trapped steadily through the year. A lot of time and effort have been expended by these co-operators but they are being well rewarded by the interesting information they are obtaining.

THE CAROLINA JUNCO IN NORTHEASTERN TENNESSEE

By BRUCE P. TYLER

The "Snowbird" of our southern mountains, *(Junco hyemalis carolinensis)*, so closely resembles the more northerly ranging sub-species, the Slate-colored Junco *(Junco hyemalis hyemalis)*, that differentiation by sight in the field is almost impossible without recourse to trapping or collecting specimens. The Carolina Junco is slightly larger than the Slate-colored Junco, its bill is somewhat paler and its back lacks the brownish wash of the latter. Likely extensive observation of the birds themselves would prove the positive identification between the two forms in the field to be extremely difficult.

As to their habits, however, the line of demarcation between the northern and the southern forms is very marked and with such varying habits minute differences are bound to appear. As stated above, the mountain loving Carolina Junco acquires slightly more size than its progenitor and this is true even of the genus homo. Men born and reared in our mountains surely excel in stature, so why not the birds? The Slate-colored Junco breeds north to Alaska, and winters to our Gulf Coast, but the Carolina Junco restricts its migration, as far as latitude is concerned, and confines its year-round habitat to the vicinity of the high Southern Appalachians. It is as common in summer in the higher mountains as the American Robin is in the lowlands. Leaving the high mountains, where it breeds from 4,000 feet above sea level and upwards, it descends to the mountain base and the adjacent river valleys to spend the winter. At Johnson City it arrives about November first and departs about April first, depending on variations in weather conditions to a limited extent. We have in this subspecies a "vertical migrant," nesting in the upper reaches of the Transition Zone and in the Canadian Zone and in the Canadian Zone and wintering, within a few miles, in the lower reaches of the Transition Zone and the upper reaches of the Uper Austral Zone, an innovation in avian migration.

The Carolina Junco raises two or more broods each year. The first nesting begins about April 15th, the second begins about June first to fifteenth, and a few nest to August first. The nest is usually placed on the ground under an overhanging bank, alongside the moss hummocks in the open grass-covered fields, among the roots of upturned trees, and, occasionally, in small balsam trees about two or three feet above the gound. The nest is well built of small roots, moss and grass, lined with finer material, occasionally hair, mosses, or wool. On another page will be found an illustration of a typical nest and eggs, together with a Junco incubating upon another nest. On the page following are shown typical habitats on top of Roan Mountain at an altitude of about 6,000 feet. The first clutch is composed of four eggs. I have seen only one clutch of five. The second nesting may show many nests containing three eggs, but the normal number is four.

The eggs are extremely variable in size, color and markings. The accompanying illustration (a) shows an assembly of fourteen eggs from various nests. The variation is evident at a glance and applies not only to the markings but to the shape and size. The fourteen eggs measure in inches as follows: .84 x .58, .83 x .64, .76 x .60, .83 x 61, .78 x .61, .80 x .60,

.78 x .60, .86 x .62, .75 x .58, .83 x .56, .83 x .60, .78 x .63, .82 x .62 and .82 x .59, making an average of .81 x .63. In the other illustration (b) the fourteen eggs are arranged to show the wreaths and markings on the butts of the eggs, and discloses the fact that the eggs may not only vary in size, but to an extensive degree, in markings. With the exception of the Song Sparrow, the markings on the eggs of the Carolina Junco are more variable than any of our local species.

A most striking illustration of variation may be seen by comparing the two clutches illustrated. The clutch of five (c) measure: .80 x .64, .82 x .63, .83 x .64, .84 x .62, and .81 x .62, average, .82 x .63. The clutch of four (d) measure: .83 x .59, .82 x .58, .82 x .57, and .84 x .59, average .83 x .58. In addition to the variation in size, these two clutches illustrate splendidly the variation in makings and color of the shell. In the clutch of five, we find a background of very pale azure green, spotted with reddish brown, quite evenly distributed, but in the clutch of four, we observe a background cream-colored with heavy wreaths of brown and the rest of the egg nearly clear of markings. I am indebted to my colleague, Mr. Robert Barton Lyle, for measurements and eggs from which the illustrations were made.

This little Junco is the friendliest of birds. If you camp in his front yard, he will welcome you with his song and make you happy with his presence, as he comes to eat the crumbs that fall from your board. In my trips to the mountains I always see to it that abundant food is made available for them. Low temperatures do not seem to harm or dull the ardor of the Junco. It may remain late on the mountain or frequent barns or fodder shocks on the slopes where food is available. It is reported to me, and I doubt it not, that the Junco will even enter houses in winter in search of food. A great eater of weed seed, this bird is of inestimable value to the farmer. Altogether, a loving, trusting little friend.

A great thrill comes to an ornithologist, camped among the balsams of our mountains, when he awakens from sleep at peep-of-day and hears the carol of the Juncos, plaintive, sweet and in volume, the morning song of thanksgiving rises from the mountain top, and if one has camped on Roan Mountain and has gone to the summit to view the sunrise, in its majesty, and combines the silent splendor of the glowing East with the praising carol of the Juncos, there will surely be a thrill that will last a lifetime.

JOHNSTON CITY, TENN., Nov., 1936.

The U. S. Biological Survey is compiling for publication a list of all the local names which are applied to our common birds; for example, the Towhee is often called "Chewink," and "Ground Robin." Readers are invited to send to the Survey a list of birds of their locality for which other than the proper name is applied locally.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS: On the opposite page is shown a nest of the Carolina Junco on Roan Mountain; alongside is a Junco on its nest. The next two pages show habitats of Juncos and other birds on Roan Mountain and illustrate the papers by Messrs. Tyler and Ganier. The groups of Junco eggs shown are described by Mr. Tyler. The photo of the Mountain Vireo on its nest, illustrate the paper by Dr. Powers on page 95. On the page following, are shown some informal "snaps" at our T. O. S. members afield.

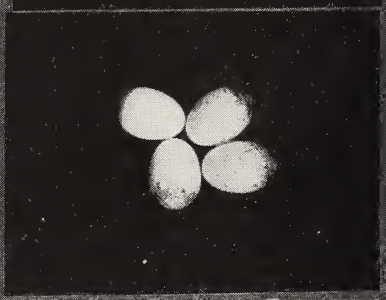
Carolina Junco
nest and eggs

a

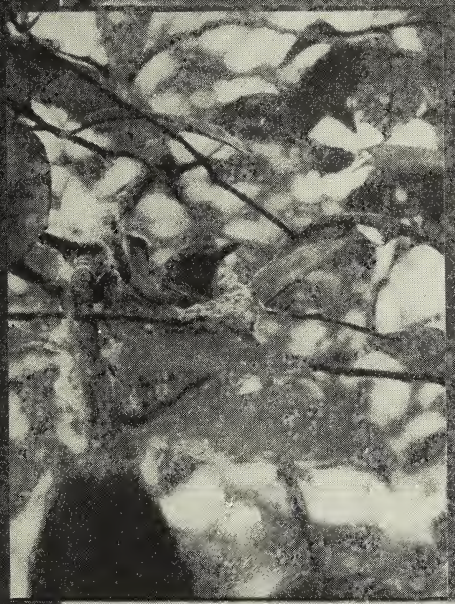
b

c

d



Roan Mountain



Mountain Vireo and nest

The Big Meadow - Roan Mtn.

SOME "SNAPS" OF T.C.S. MEMBERS AFIELD.

No. (1)- Some of the "Roan Mountaineers" in the open beech woods on Roan Mtn; see page 84 Of this issue.- (2) On Spring Field Day near Nashville; Messrs Foster, Bamberg, Murphy, Todd, Olebach, Pickering and Mrs Bamberg appear to be questioning someone's identification.- (3) The Cliff Swallow "expedition" at Dover, Tenn., see pa. 29 of June issue.- (4) Ben Coffey, et al, after shorebirds in the muddy mud of Mud Lake; see pa. 61 of Sept. issue.- (5) and (6) Fall Field Day; Dr Vaughn is pouring a cup of his famous coffey for Miss Dean while Messrs Monk and Robins "stand by",and (right) Tenn. and Kentucky members emerging from an inspection of the historic Cheek's cavern; at the center are T.O.S. founder members A. C. Webb and Dixon Merritt.

THE ATTACHMENT OF A MOUNTAIN VIREO TO ITS NEST

BY EDWIN B. POWERS

On May 9 (1936) our class in ornithology was on a field trip in the Smoky Mountains National Park. At high noon when walking through the forested lot of the Appalachian Club grounds I observed a male Mountain Solitary Vireo with food in its mouth. I followed the bird very closely and it soon deposited the food in what I presumed was a hungry mouth of a young bird in its nest. To my surprise, on closer observation I discovered that the recipient was the incubating female. The nest was that which is characteristic of this species of vireo, placed hanging between the forks of a small holly tree limb declining about thirty degrees. It was a most beautiful nest with the entire outside surface covered with the webbed egg cases of spiders. The nest was near but not in the forest edge. It was about ten feet above the ground level but hung over the side of a shallow ravine which made it about twelve feet above the ground beneath.

The first marvel was how this small bird was able to seek out and secure so many of the discarded spider egg cases and build a nest so beautiful. After admiring the nest for some minutes, with only the head of the bird with the white throat and stripes above and around the eyes visible, I called Mr. Homer Mumaw, the photographer of the class, to make a picture of the nest and bird.

The second marvel was that the bird was not disturbed by the maneuvers made to take the picture. We first photographed the bird at a distance of from ten to twelve feet, not realizing what a surprising demonstration we were soon to witness of the bird's fearlessness. Pulling the limb down to within three feet, several photographs were taken without the bird showing any sign of disturbance. Two of these photos, which are reproduced on page 93, show the beautiful construction of the suspended nest and the fearless parent bird sitting upon it.

When the finger was placed within reach of the bird, there was no disposition shown to peck. It was then decided to see how many eggs there were in the nest. Mr. Mumaw reached over and lifted the mother bird up and, sure enough, there were four creamy white eggs marked with a few scattering black specks. After the bird was replaced on the nest the class was called and all gathered within arms reach of the nest. After hearing the story, they were curious to see the eggs. This time when an attempt was made to lift the mother bird off her nest she grabbed the bottom of the nest with her feet and clung on. During this time I had stood off thinking perhaps an additional person would frighten the bird and a study of the bird on the nest could not be made by the class.

When I came up after they had made their observations, I suspect that I showed an expression of surprise at their story. To prove that their story was on the level, a member of the class stroked the bird twice from the top of its head to the base of the tail in something of the manner of stroking a kitten.

We let the limb of the holly tree back in place with the little blue-headed white throated bird of motherly love still sitting on the nest incubating the four small eggs and left deeply impressed with the tenacity of the instinct of parental care.

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE, June 1936.

CHIMNEY SWIFT MIGRATION AT MEMPHIS (Continued from page 82)

the chimney of the vacant building (now U. S. Rubber Co.). McCamey reported the chimney must had been very crowded or not to their liking for shortly after dark many swifts were coming back out. An hour later we had secured a ladder and covered the chimney. Next morning we trapped only 466, all that elected to remain. On Oct. 9, 1935, after a few evenings observation at the north end of uptown, we trapped near the Masonic Temple for the first time in two years, hoping to pick up some of our 1932 and 1933 birds but found only one—a 1932 swift—in over 1,300 examined.

As the 1936 season grew older we finally secured some results, banding 820 at Southwestern College, Oct. 1, with 5 foreign recoveries and 21 1935 birds and later 1,514 at Idlewild School on Oct. 8, with 4 foreign birds and 27 local 1935 returns. We stood on the roof of the school the evening before and watched about 1,750 swifts go down. Late that night we had lowered the trap, cage, and other equipment from the college tower, moved it all over and placed properly on the school chimney. At 3:30 a. m. it started to rain. During a slight lull the next morning we decided it was an all day rain, and opened up the swinging door of the trap but dropped the black oil-cloth in place in order to discourage the swifts coming out if the weather should clear off late in the evening. One of my assistants was to come back and remove it if the weather cleared earlier. (In this connection let me state that Swifts apparently will remain within the chimney when the weather becomes cold or rainy. Earlier this season when trying to outwait a rainy spell I watched some swifts attempt to go down the chimney I had covered, and the week before at Southwestern while we were first banding, a flock assembled and circled for some time, dropping on occasions below the chimney top and within reaching distance of us on the roof.) Continuing, it rained until late afternoon when many Swifts evidently slipped out due to water collecting in the canvas covering a half of the chimney and by its weight pulling the canvas away from the trap. I returned after work, saw that all was well, with a good-sized flock remaining in the chimney. Shortly afterwards a few Swifts began to twitter overhead and a flock gradually assembled. Making wide circles, occasionally they would swing back over us. I climbed the ladder and rolled back the canvas to the chimney edge. On the other half of the chimney sat the 2'x4'x2' trap enclosure with funnel over the side and cage below. The birds came closer and closer, a few dipped undecidedly towards the trap, finally some answered our prayers and found the remaining 20"x40" opening. The flock of about 800 gradually poured in with what seemed only slightly longer pauses in the movement than normally. Next day we found that the chimney contained 1,500 birds. A rain at 7:45 a. m., just as we finished banding the first cage full of 800 and as most of our workers were leaving for school or for work, again stopped operations. It cleared later and two Scouts with flexible class schedules came back and took care of the remainder.

No swifts were seen near this school for a few nights following, then a flock of less than 100 went down one of the two chimneys on the old section of the school. The next night we covered both these chimneys but the swifts attempted to go down the same one until dark, some 15-20 minutes after they are normally down. The flock diminished in size and gradually vanished

from the vicinity. For several nights this continued, the last flock only numbering about 20. Although the flock would occasionally break away and circle wide, rarely did a Swift dip towards our trapping chimney.

One spring I covered a moderately high chimney on a lower building across an areaway from the Oliver chimney. The last flock of the fall before had used the Oliver chimney but the birds were then using this other chimney. And this particular night they persisted in dipping to within a few inches of the covered chimney until it became too dark to see them when they vanished. At such a time the flock becomes silent, the circling seems hurried as they dip lower and lower until they just clear the parapet and individuals at times almost hit you if you step out from behind the penthouse to observe them. Ignoring the larger, open chimney 20 feet distant, on this occasion they did attempt to go down a third chimney on a higher building across the street. This chimney had not been used for about two years, ever since a permanent cover had been placed over it. I did not make the attempt again that season but on other occasions I have succeeded in diverting portions of small flocks into the Oliver chimney, usually after a cold spell abated and the boiler was shut down in the Oliver building.

Where these Swifts go when they have failed to go down a roosting chimney, long after the usual time and darkness is absolute, is a question that has always intrigued me and will probably remain unanswered. Last spring a small flock uptown would circle as usual near the above two chimneys or the nearby U. S. Rubber building but about the time they should be pouring down, they would suddenly fly off out of sight, only to re-appear a few minutes later, perhaps circle low a few times, or perhaps pass by only, then repeat the performance several times until darkness swallowed them. They did not go to any of the known roosts in the area when we kept special watch on occasions. After being on the wing all day, could it be that these birds spent the night in the air, putting miles behind them in their southward flight?

The only times during two months last spring that I saw Swifts go down a flue in a normal manner were: about 90 once at the National Garage; about 1200 going down a ten-foot metal stock surmounting the brick chiminey of a four-story vacant building, with smaller flocks there for about three days succeeding; and, a small flock whose members dipped in and out of a warm flue at noon on a damp, chilly day.

The most unusual sight occurred one fall night several years ago. A good-sized flock circling over a half block of four-story buildings attracted our attention. Across Second St. was a high office building and an open park. It became apparent as the minutes passed, that the Swifts were undecided about what chimney, if any, to go down (we couldn't see the roofs). As it grew dark, the Swifts got lower and lower, soon were circling entirely over the street and in the "canyon" between the facing buildings, though at times opposite the corner adjoining the park. A large number of people began watching the "bats" or "sweeps" which were now at the second floor level just over our heads. We were ready to expect anything, Swifts trying to roost on the street, in window recesses, or in park trees, but after several minutes the flock all left together. If their unknown winter home of a few weeks hence is in a region where they must roost on the vertical cliffs of

rugged canyons, then here may almost have been an advance demonstration of their necessary yet unparalleled change of roosting habit.

Swift banding at Memphis may be said to have only started. Our project of making a sizeable dent in the countless unbanded Swifts present here in one fall has been postponed to next year. It will require unlimited trapping but we hope to be ready and waiting if the opportunities do not fail us. At best, of course, we can only hope to examine a small proportion of what we estimate to be a sustained maximum, for over two weeks, of 20,000 to 25,000 Swifts going down a few Memphis chimneys each night. Though hard work, it has been very interesting. It would not have been possible without the ample help given by others, chiefly older Scouts, including Rover Scouts and many Eagles. Among others I want to express my thanks to Rutherford Gartside, Erie Henrich, and Robert Reinert who helped build the cage and the first big trap, Mrs. Coffey and Miss Alice Smith, Franklin McCamey, Fred Carney, Wendell Whittemore, Bert Powell, John Pond, John Jackson, Shelton Douglas, Henry Turner, Jack Steinkamp, George Clayton, and many others. And also to the owners and occupants of the various buildings, whose full co-operation allowed us to individualize large numbers of a very interesting and beneficial species.

MEMPHIS, TENN., Nov., 1936.

THE ROUND TABLE

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: In our last Summary we mentioned seeing on Sept. 11, moderate numbers of Swallows out over the river for a distance of at least a mile. On Oct. 18 Tree Swallows were everywhere to be seen, darting back and forth over Horn Lake. By count I arrived at an estimate for a small width paced off on the levee top, then calculated for the whole three miles of lake (200 yards wide) along the levee. Allowing for several thousand over the levee and open fields, I estimated a total of about 80,000 Tree Swallows. On the Field Day, Nov. 1, we noted eight more while on the bluff overlooking the bottoms of Grassy Lake and two additional while we were in Shelby Forest.——On the morning of Oct. 10 while walking to a Front St. garage I noticed a flock of large birds, over Confederate Park on the Mississippi, which proved to be White Pelicans, 52 in number. They circled back over Wolf River, southward over Mud Island and back over Riverside Drive and the wholesale district on the city's bluff before veering southwest and downstream. It was quite a treat to see these magnificent birds practically over a large city. Meanwhile James Vardaman and group, twelve miles south at Lakeview, also found Pelicans; about 30 minutes after I recorded the above flock, a similar flock appeared over Mud Lake there, making a total of 150 which then moved southward. Other interesting records by this party were Bald Eagle, 2 and Osprey, 2.——Harold Elphingstone at Camp Currier (Eudora, Miss.) recorded on Oct. 24: Blue-winged Teal, 50; Canada Goose, 1; Blackburnian Warbler, a pair; Tree Swallow, 8; Barn Swallow, 1; Phoebe, 4; Acadian Flycatcher, 3; and on the 25th: Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Marsh Hawk, 1; and Fox Sparrow, 2. At the same place on Nov. 7-8, Wallace recorded a fair list with nothing unusual except possibly 75

unidentified geese.——The Fall field day was held Nov. 1. We met at the wharf where we viewed some 30 Ring-billed Gulls and then proceeded north to the new Shelby Forest. A flock of 30 Bluebirds were seen on highway 51 just north of town. Bird life was quiet at the Forest although small restless flocks of Goldfinch totaled about 100. Among the 40 species noted were Purple Finch, 7; Phoebe, 2; and Cedar Waxwing, 25.——On Nov. 15 about 2,000 ducks were feeding and resting on Mud Lake, remaining on the far side so that identification was difficult. The greater part were Lesser Scaup and Ring-necked Ducks, and a few were Mallards with more of this species probable but not actually identified. Mrs. Coffey and Miss Smith observed two Canada Geese going over.—BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis.

WILLOW THRUSH AT MEMPHIS: On about April 16, 1936, a dead thrush was found on a local lawn by a Scout. It was turned over to Eagle Scout John Pond who made a study skin of it was then forwarded by the writer to Mr. A. F. Ganier for his Tennessee collection. Its identity was established as a Willow Thrush *(Hylocichla fuscescens salicicola)* by Dr. H. C. Oberholser; thus adding a new sub-species to our State list. The Veery, or eastern form, is believed to have been a fairly common transient here the last two springs—the birds observed were not so dark brown in color as this specimen. However, the status of the two forms in the lower Mississippi valley is not definitely known. Baerg ("Birds of Arkansas" 1931) says of the Willow Thrush "it is a common migrant . . . observed at Helena" and does not list the Veery. For Alabama (Howell, 1924) and Louisiana (Dept. of Conservation, 1931) the Veery is described as a fairly common transient but the Willow Thrush is not listed. Andrew A. Allison collected one of the latter race in Amite County, Miss., on Sept. 18, 1897 *(Auk* XVII, 1900, p. 297).—BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis.

EGRETS DROWNED BY STORM: On September 3, during the course of a stay at Reelfoot Lake, the writer witnessed the fatal or near-fatal effects of a storm upon some American Egrets. Just before dark on the previous afternoon a heavy thunderstorm came up followed by a rain of nearly two inches. Broken limbs and some trees blown down next morning attested the severity of the wind. In company with Miss Evelyn Schneider and Mr. Wendell Whittemore, the writer rowed across the lower end of the lake next morning to Grassy Bend. Upon reaching a place where a fringe of live cypress grew out into the water, we were surprised to see the white head and a portion of the neck of an American Egret protruding from the water. Rowing closer, we grasped the bird by the bill and lifted it into the boat, a very much water-logged creature, though it had energy enough to peck at us. Looking about, we found six more in the same predicament except that one of these had already succumbed. The birds had evidently been blown out of the trees late in the evening or the night before and there being no land near, were unable to wade out of the water which was several feet deep. They would doubtless have drowned and this fate may have befallen many of the other Egrets of which there were thousands about the lake. We carried our rescued birds to the Biological Station grounds and there released them. They would not eat small frogs we caught for them and disgorged such food when forcibly fed. The next morning one had regained sufficient strength to fly away, three were able to walk about and one was dead. Eventually, however, the three remaining ones died, perhaps because of weakness brought on by their refusal to eat.—FLOYD S. CARPENTER, Louisville, Ky.

A TURTLE CAPTURES A COOT: On April 21st, on Lake Andrew Jackson near Knoxville, the writer and George Foster were watching about 30 Coots and after a time observed a lone individual among the willows that seemed to be in trouble. We judged it had become caught in a tangle of something below the surface and since the water was shallow we waded out to the rescue. The bird seemed quite exhausted and put up but a feeble struggle to escape, during which time we could see that its right leg was held outstretched toward the bottom. Raising the bird above the water we found a small snapping turtle, about four and a half inches across, holding the foot in its mouth. The Coot had twisted its leg until the joint was torn apart and only the sinews were holding it on. A moment later the turtle released its hold and the bird fell back into the water and swam away as best it could. We surmised that the turtle would in the end have gotten not only the foot but the bird as well.—W. M. WALKER, Knoxville.

A CROW ATTACKS A TURTLE: Last May at Reelfoot Lake, while I was walking along the bayou south of Walnut Log lodge, a Crow flew up in much confusion, about ten steps ahead of me. I noticed blood all over his beak, so hurried around some bushes to see what he had been up to. There on the ground was a live turtle, about seven inches long ,lying on his back and kicking vigorously. The skin between his body and the left front leg had been torn open and the tissues beneath were flooded with blood. Apparently the Crow had not had time to do much damage because when I turned the turtle over he struck out for the water at a rate that was indeed high for a turtle, using all four legs very effectively.—CLARENCE E. *MOORE*, Memphis.

NOTE: With Crows eating live turtles and turtles capturing live Coots, it looks like a game of "nip and tuck" in the animal kingdom.—EDITOR.

THE SEASON AT CLARKSVILLE: The Short-billed Marsh Wrens, mentioned in last issue, were found in the same marsh as late as Nov. 4, when 4 were seen there.——About mid-September a Red-legged Black Duck joined the flock of tame Mallards at the Cave lake and is unsuspicious of passersby.——A Little Blue Heron was found on Oct. 18, a late date, by Lamar Armstrong on West Fork Creek.——The last Solitary Sandpiper observed was found on Oct. 6 and over the same pond a Greater Yellowlegs was recorded on Oct. 20.——On Sept. 24, Dr. Pickering and a companion discovered a White-rumped Sandpiper in company with 2 Least Sandpipers at the edge of a small pond. This is considered a rare species in Tennessee so Dr. Pickering flushed the bird a number of times in order to check the clear white band across base of tail.——Our 159th species recorded for Montgomery Co. during 1936, was a Black-crowned Night Heron, brought to town on Nov. 21. We released him on the river bank in hopes he would survive his injuries.——The last Green Herons seen locally were on Sept. 28; on a 25-mile canoe trip down Red River, on Oct. 3 and 4, not one of these herons was seen.——Chimney Swifts were noted roosting here in large numbers up to Oct. 5 but the following evening they had gone; however on Oct. 12, nine were observed at the roosting chimney but that was the last date.——Purple Martins roosted in trees on the city streets in considerable numbers in late August. On the 29th they were noted lining the phone wires below town, along with Barn, Bank and Rough-winged Swallows. Some other

"last" dates were: Black-billed Cuckoo, Oct. 10; Nighthawk numerous on Oct. 10; Ruby-throated Hummer Oct. 6; Catbird Oct. 20 and Scarlet Tanager Oct. 12.——Of the fall warbler transients the Black-throated Green and the Tennessee were most abundant; Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted and Ovenbirds were common, while the Nashville, Wilson's and Canada Warblers were rated as fairly common.——We regret to say that Nebletts' 25-acre slough, 10 miles east of town and in the Cumberland River bottoms has been drained as a land reclamation project. We shall regret the passing of this fine habitat for certain species of swamp loving birds.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, SR., Clarksville.

THE WINTER STATUS OF CERTAIN BIRDS IN TENNESSEE: Among other bird problems to be studied is the status of certain birds which winter in Tennessee irregularly and locally. The writer will mention a few of these species in the hope that all reliable data may be assembled and more data be added by careful observations during this and in following winters.

The Purple Finch was found commonly around Nashville in the years 1913-17. During the severe winter of 1917-18, they were discovered frozen in some numbers in Shelby Park and in other localities, along with other species. Since the writer returned from France in the fall of 1919, after missing the winters of 1917-18 and 1918-19, he has found these finches more limited in numbers and in areas. These birds are so like sparrows in appearance and in habits that they can be easily overlooked in the underbrush and in elm trees where they feed with Goldfinches and with sparrows. They utter a characteristic cluck while feeding and while flying which bird observers should learn and listen for at all time in winter. The Pine Siskin has been reported occasionally in late winter and in early spring in Tennessee. In color, in notes, and in actions they can easily be distinguished from Goldfinches by a careful observer and all groups supposed to be the latter should be scanned for possible Siskin. The blackbird family has several species which are recorded as wintering in parts of Kentucky and even north of the Ohio. Redwings, Cowbirds and Grackles are rarely seen in December and early January around Nashville and more records would be welcome. The Robin, too, seems to leave the Nashville area during the same period but returns as a rule before January is past. December records for the Robin are of special value. The Chipping Sparrow, the Brown Thrasher and the Ruby-crowned Kinglet are rare in winter but careful search may increase the winter records we already have. The Redhead Woodpecker is more often found but records for him are needed in Middle and East Tennessee. Bird students in the Nashville area lament the recent scarcity of the cheerful White-breasted Nuthatch. In 1912-17 this bird was fairly common in suitable localities. Now he has practically disappeared in this vicinity. The writer would be pleased to get information as to the status of this species in other sections of the State. With the passing years new habitats have been found for the Migrant Shrike both in nesting and wintering. Still this bird is rare in Middle and East Tennessee and all records should be carefully made as to time and place and sent in to *The Migrant*. Cedar Waxwings, Bewicks Wrens, Phoebes, Pipets and Hermit Thrushes should also be carefully sought and recorded, for data on these species during the winter months is far from satisfactory.—GEORGE R. MAYFIELD, Nashville.

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER NESTS OF 1936: During these two months, nestlings were banded from fourteen nests at my home, near substations, and in Warner Park, with the cooperation of Mrs. E. C. Tompkins, Mr. E. D. Schreiber, Leo Rippy, Jr., William Simpson, and Steve Lawrence. The details are as follows: Mourning Dove (2 nests) one nestling banded Aug. 18; two nestlings still being brooded Sept. 1. Yellow billed Cuckoo. (1 nest) two nestlings fledged Sept. 12. Mockingbird (3 nests) three nestlings in each about ready to leave on Aug. 2, Aug. 6 and Aug. 10 respectively. Bluebird (3 nest boxes) three young in one and one in each of other two boxes were banded Aug. 5 but not ready to fledge for several days. Cardinal (3 nests) two young were banded Aug. 6; one on Aug. 8; and two on Sept. 2. The last mentioned were still small. On July 27th, three young Cardinals were banded from their nest. Field Sparrow (2 nests) three young were still in the nest Aug. 1, and on Aug. 13 a juvenal that had just fledged was caught by hand.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, Nashville.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER AT CARYVILLE (TENN.) LAKE: On August 27, Louis Kalter and the writer saw on the Caryville Lake, a bird we believed to be a Baird's Sandpiper (*Pisobia bairdi*). The following, written while the bird was in the field of our glasses, is copied from Kalter's notebook: "One bird seen feeding alone, and in company with Semipalmated Plover, on mud flats of the Caryville Lake at 3 P.M. Description: Larger than Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers feeding nearby, smaller than Pectoral and of same dorso-ventral size as Semipalmated Plover, although slightly longer than the latter. Compared with the Plover while both were in field of binoculars at same time with the Baird's almost in line with the Plover: legs blackish, crown finely streaked, breast band complete, buffy, streaked with gray-fuscous, throat lighter, back has scaly appearance, buffy with black feather spots rimmed with the buffy, center tail feathers fuscous, flanked by shorter, apparently white or whitish feathers. Flight not very erratic, accompanied by wavering whistle, described by Foster as a "roll;" waded belly-deep and also went 15 yards away from water's edge with plover. Picked at something on green sprouting herb that was half-submerged near shore." On August 30 a return trip to the lake was made and at this time the bird was seen feeding 50 yards from the water's edge and allowed approach within 15 feet. On September 1, Franklin McCamey and the writer saw two of these birds in the same place and on September 9, one specimen was collected and when sent to the Biological Survey, it was returned with our identification verified.—GEORGE FOSTER, JR., Norris, Tenn.

ERRATA—In my notes published in last issue, line 20, the list should have read: 1 Sora, 1 Semipalmated Sandpiper, *about 2000* Cliff Swallows.—G. FOSTER.

NOTES FROM KNOXVILLE: The fall migration began early with flocks of Blue-wing Teal on Norris Lake the middle of September. The warblers were fairly plentiful both the week before and after September twentieth. On that day, the Fall Census Day at Island Home, thirteen species of Warblers and four of Vireos were recorded. The Warbling Vireo was not found although we know a pair were summer residents of the territory covered by the census.——The ducks, geese, and other water birds at Norris

Lake were fairly common as to species but not in numbers. As a rule those that did stop on the lake did so for only a couple of days at a time, as shown by several check-ups. A trip on Saturday followed by one the next day often revealed a new set of birds altogether. Occasionally a small flock would stay about a week. Ducks have been as plentiful on the river this fall as in years past. Wood Duck are reported more plentiful. A Blue Goose was killed on the Tennessee River near Knoxville Nov. 21; I did not see the bird but the description was unmistakable.——A few late dates are here given as last records for local migrants; Indigo Bunting 1 on Oct 4; Chimney Swift 3 on Oct. 13; Chipping Sparrow 4 on Oct. 24, and Spotted Sandpiper 1 on Oct. 31.——At Norris Lake, on Nov. 8, there were large flocks of Cedar Waxwings and also of Redwinged Blackbirds; in some cases we found mixed flocks of these two species. The estimate for the day for these birds was between 4000 and 5000.——Other large flocks of birds that have been reported are: 2000 Crows at a roost Oct. 10, none a week later; 1000 to 1200 Starling on Nov. 15; 1000 Grackle at Sevierville, Tennessee, on Oct. 25, and a flock of an estimated 8000 in East Knoxville on Oct. 29 and 30. This group had dwindled to 18 birds on Oct. 31 and the last few seen were 11 on Nov. 9.—W. M. WALKER, Knoxville.

THE RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER IN BLOUNT COUNTY, TENNESSEE: In view of the scarcity of published records of the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker *(Dryobates borealis)* for the State of Tennessee, it seems well to record five individuals seen in April, 1935, on lands which will probably be included in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. On April 16, 1935, while walking along highway 72 near Revenue Hill, about five miles southeast of Calderwood, Tennessee, I heard an unusual bird call that reminded me of the call made by young hungry robins. I finally succeeded in seeing the bird that was making the call. It seemed to be shy for it never remained on a tree very long and tried to keep on the opposite side of the tree from me. I was positive that the bird was a woodpecker and one that I was not familiar with, so I did not make a decision until I had consulted pictures and Chapman's Handbook, *Birds of Eastern North America.* The following day, April 17, I returned to the vicinity. As soon as I entered the pine woods, I saw two of these birds which seemed to be mates as they kept close together. At times, both fed on the same tree. A characteristic of the species, that I noticed is that of feeding near the tops of the trees, quite unlike the Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers. The several stalkings enabled me to see the markings of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Several days later I looked for these birds but failed to find them, but in all probability they nested in the vicinity.

I have another record of this species from Cane Gap, April 19. This site is several miles distant from the site from which they were first recorded. The elevation of this place is approximately 1700 feet. Still another record of the species is that of a bird seen April 29, on Andy McCully Ridge near Rabbit Creek, at an altitude of 2,210 feet.

These are my only records of the species from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park during a year of field work. All the records are from Blount County, Tenn., and in that section of the park which is most uniformly covered with pine trees.—RAYMOND J. FLEETWOOD, (Former Naturalist Assistant, Great Smoky Mountains National Park), Kurtz, Indiana.

MEETINGS OF LOCAL CHAPTERS

THE NASHVILLE CHAPTER will hold meetings during the first quarter of 1936, on Monday evenings, as follows: Jan. 11, 25, Feb. 8, 22, March 8 and 22. Its Christmas census has been set for Sunday, Dec. 27. B. H. Abernathy (Hobb's Road) is secretary. Meetings are at 7:30 P.M. at Peabody College, in the main or Social-Religious Building.

THE KNOXVILLE CHAPTER will hold its evening meetings on Jan. 13, Feb. 3 and March 3; field trips are scheduled for Jan. 17, Feb. 21 and March 21. Officers were recently elected, as follows: president, Dr. Earl Henry, vice-pres., George Foster, curator, S. A. Ogden, and secy.-treas., Mrs. Frank Leonhard (203 Elmwood Ave.)

THE MEMPHIS CHAPTER is scheduled to meet on Jan. 4, 18, Feb. 1, 15, March 1, 15 and 29. The meetings are held Monday evenings at the Museum of Natural History and Art (Pink Palace). The main Xmas census is set for Dec. 27. Their officers are president, Dr. C. E. Moore, vice-pres., Dr. Cynthia C. Counce, and secy.-treas., Mrs. T. I. Klyce (Jones Road).

THE CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER will hold its meetings every other Tuesday, those of the first quarter falling on Jan. 5, 19, Feb. 2, 16, March 1 and 15. The Xmas census will be taken on Dec. 20. Alfred Clebsch, Sr., is secy.-treas.

THE MURFREESBORO CHAPTER, H. O. Todd, secretary, will take their Xmas census on Dec. 27 and plan regular evening meetings during Jan., Feb., March, etc.

THE BLUEGRASS CHAPTER was organized on November 8 at a meeting held near Columbia at the camp of Dr. George Williamson. This chapter will sponsor rallies of our members who are located at Columbia, Pulaski, Mt. Pleasant, Franklin and nearby points. A field trip on the adjacent estate of Dr. O. J. Porter occupied most of the morning of Nov. 8 and was attended by about sixteen members, including several who had motored down from Nashville. After an excellent luncheon, served by Dr. Williamson, the organization was effected and the following officers were named: president, Dan R. Gray of Mt. Pleasant and secretary, Mrs. Sam H. Rogers of Pulaski. A mid-winter bird census, to be held at Columbia on Jan. 3, was decided on. The Bluegrass Chapter will also hold spring and fall field days in due season.

The Annual Fall Field Day of the T.O.S. took the shape of a joint meeting with the Kentucky Ornithological Society. The date was Oct. 18 and the site was the crossing of Red River and the old Louisville Pike, 5 miles south of the Kentucky line and 31 miles from Nashville. Here also is the historic old Cheek's tavern, built of logs, and the cave, described by Alexander Wilson on his visit here in 1810. Nearly 90 people attended the meeting, including a number from various distant points in the State and Kentucky. Perfect weather, congenial spirits, excellent territory for the field work during which 62 species of birds were listed, and a fine meal served by the lunch committee, made the day one of the very best of its kind in our history.

A tabulation of the Xmas census will be published in our next issue.

The Georgia Ornithological Society was organized at a meeting held at Atlanta on December 13. *The Oriole*, published quarterly, will be its organ.

THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF TENNESSEE BIRDS.
PUBLISHED AT NASHVILLE, TENN., BY THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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It has been said that the measure of an ornithologist is his willingness and ability to make printed record of his studies and findings.

EDITORIAL CHAT

Mr. Coffey's article, on the first page, constitutes a valuable chapter toward unraveling the mystery of Chimney Swift migration, possibly the most intriguing problem now before ornithologists. In order to gather the information he is giving us, the author and his helpers have put in hundreds of hours of work, often under trying circumstances. We shall look forward to his next report.

Feeding shelves for our wintering birds should be put in trim before severe winter weather arrives. Birds about our homes frequently have but scanty territory from which to gather natural food and if not fed, will often leave. For Cardinals, Towhees and native Sparrows, sunflower seed and grains are most favored; the Woodpeckers, Titmice and Chickadees are partial to cracked nuts and suet, while the Mockingbird, Robin and Hermit Thrush favor fruits, raw or stewed, and boiled potatoes of either kind. Heads from staghorn sumac, sorghum, grohoma, millet, etc., are convenient foods to keep on the shelf.

On inquiry, we gather that our members are keeping their files of *The Migrant* and that very few copies go into the wastebaskets with the newspapers. It is with a feeling of satisfaction then to know that our efforts serve more than a passing purpose and that we are building a literature that will endure and be of value for reference in the years to come.

This issue closes our seventh volume and add 106 more pages of printed information on the birds of Tennessee, with 36 photographic reproductions. Main articles and Round-table items number 91 and there are 45 news notes in addition. These have been contributed by 46 of our members. The Editor, on behalf of the Society and the Staff, wishes to thank these contributors for the time they have taken to write up their experiences for the pleasure and information of their fellow members. To our members and subscribers we are all indebted for the financial support that enables us to pay the printer and the postman. By our co-operative efforts we are really "getting somewhere."

INDEX TO THE MIGRANT

FOR 1936—VOLUME 7.

MARCH PAGE

1. "Something about Birds Nests and Eggs," by Dr. H. S. Vaughn 1
"Bird Banding Brevities, No. 8," by Amelia R. Laskey 4
"A Feathered Sportsman" (Duckhawk), by Wm. M. Walker, Jr. 5
"Arrival of Spring Migrants at Nashville," Albert F. Ganier 6
"The History of a Martin Box," by Jamie Ross Tippens 8
"Some Observations at a Feeding Station," by Cynthia C. Counce 10
"Annual Christmas Census, 1935" (from 11 localities), by Members 10
"Some New Birds for the Tennessee List," compiled by the Editor 17
"Bibliography for 1935" of papers pertaining to Tennessee birds 18
The Round Table: The Season at Memphis; Saw-whet Owl at Memphis; Winter Visitors; Additional notes on the migration of October 23; Notes from Clarksville; Tree Sparrow at Corinth, Miss.; The northern range of the Tufted Titmouse; A Mockingbird's warm roost; Northern Horned Larks in Tennessee; Ruffed Grouse in Putnam Co.; Cardinal chronicles; Two seasons with a pair of Prothonotary Warblers; Blue Goose in Spring; The Season at Knoxville; A Florida Sandhill Crane at Chattanooga; Screech Owl kills a pigeon; Eagles released in The Smokies; Additions to the winter birds of northeast Tennessee; Miscellaneous notes and news 18-25

JUNE

2. Nesting of the Cliff Swallow in Tenn.," A. F. Ganier & S. A. Weakley 29
"Waterfowl in Spring on Norris Lake," by James Trent, Jr. 30
"Cowbird Nesting Records for Davidson County," by Harry C. Monk 32
"The Peace Messengers" (Mourning Doves), by Mrs. John H. Eagle 33
"Spring Birds of Chattanooga," by Bradford Torrey 34
The Round Table: The Season at Memphis; Brewer's Blackbird at Lakeview, Miss.; A Brown Pelican at Memphis; A Golden Plover near Memphis; Summer Tanager behavior; A North Mississippi heronry; Protecting a Robin's brood; A Crested Flycatcher's nest; Spring migration at Clarksville; Recent Eagle occurrences; Notes from the Nashville Area; An albino Nighthawk; Migratory waterfowl on the Wheeler Reservoir; The 1936 warbler migration; Notes on Woodcock, Turkey and Grouse; A late Golden-winged Warbler; Spring migration at Knoxville; A May list from Knoxville; Prairie Horned Lark nesting in Northeast Tenn.; Miscellaneous notes and news 37-52

SEPTEMBER

3. "August Notes Along The Cumberland," by Alfred Clebsch, Sr. 53
"The Appeal of Bird Study," by Benjamin R. Warriner 55
"Some Hot Weather Observations," by Jamie Ross Tippens 56
"Six September Days in The Smokies," by Franklin McCamey 57
"Bird Banding Brevities, No. 9," by Amelia R. Laskey 59
"A Bird Symphony," (in the Great Smokies) by Mrs. Austin Peay 60
"August Waterbirds at Mud Lake," by Ben B. Cofley 61
The Round Table: The Season at Memphis; Henslow's Sparrow near Memphis; Notes from Clarksville; Birds hung by hairs and strings; Summer notes, Nashville; Great Blue Herons nesting at Muscle Shoals; The Cowbird in summer near Murfreesboro; Notes from Winchester and Mingo Swamp; Additional Cliff Swallow colonies; The Season at Norris; Olive-sided Flycatchers (records); "He called for a camera;" Miscellaneous notes and news 68-76

DECEMBER

4. "Chimney Swift Migration at Memphis" by Ben B. Coffey 79
"Summer Birds of Roan Mountain" by Albert F. Ganier 83
"The Air Circus Goes South" (Snow Geese) by W. M. Walker 87
"The Carolina Junco in Northeast Tennessee" by B. P. Tyler 89
"A Mountain Vireo and Its Nest" by Edwin B. Powers 95
The Round Table: The season at Memphis: A Willow Thrush at Memphis: Egrets drowned by storm: A turtle captures a Coot: A Crow attacks a turtle: The season at Clarksville: Snow Geese migrating (pa 88): The winter status of certain birds: August and September nests of 1936: A Baird's Sandpiper at Careyville Lake: Notes from Knoxville: Red-cockaded Woodpecker in the Smoky Mountains: Meetings of Chapters, illustrations and miscellaneous items 98-105
Index to THE MIGRANT for 1936, volume 7 106

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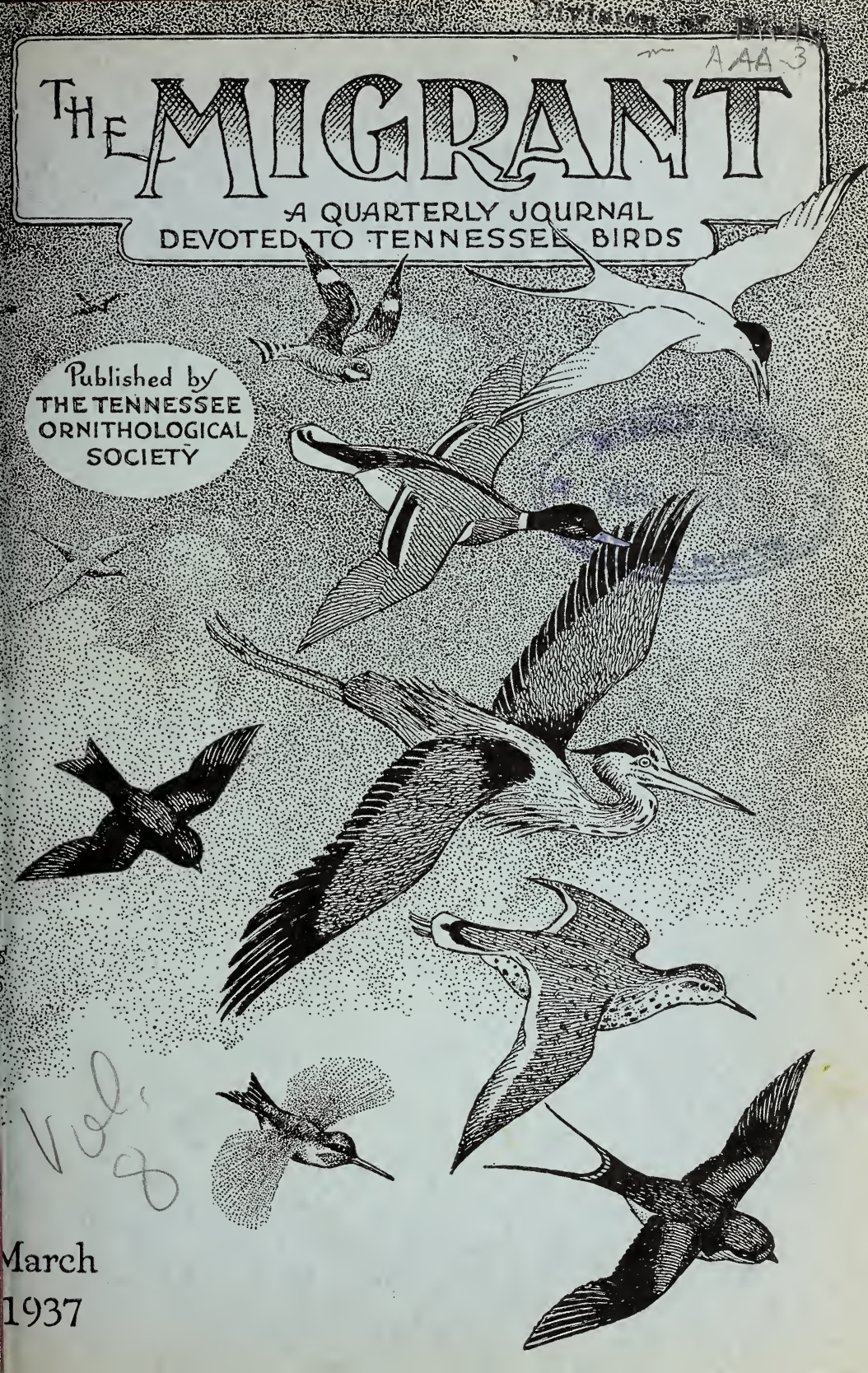

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THE MIGRANT

VOL. VIII. MARCH, 1937 NO. 1

Published by the Tennessee Ornithological Society, to Record and Encourage the Study of Birds in Tennessee. Issued in March, June, September and December.

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE RAVEN

By Bruce P. Tyler

The Northern Raven, *(Corvus corax principalis)*, belongs to the Crow family, as its scientific name indicates. *Corvus*, meaning a Crow; *corax*, the Greek for Crow; and *principalis*, the chief. Hence we have, the Raven—the big chief of the Crow family.

To the novice, the distinction between the Crow and the Raven may not be arrived at without difficulty, yet to the thinking observer, viewing the Raven, even for the first time, there must be misgivings if the bird is labeled a Crow, especially if observed in flight. Well can I remember the first glimpse I had of a Raven. It was high among the cliffs of a craggy bit of the Cumberland Mountains. My first thought was of Crows, but no, the flight was quite different in that it soared frequently, something rarely seen among Crows. The special rule for field identification is a large black bird, much larger than a Crow, occurring in most remote mountain regions where cliffs abound, and frequenty soaring in its flight. If one can approach near enough for observation with a field glass, the long feathers under the throat are, in the adult bird, a very positive means of identification. This is a bird of high intelligence, a sport loving bird. When the young have learned to fly, they may be seen in small flocks sporting in the air high over the mountain tops, dipping and sailing and croaking—what regal sport, all the thrills that come to the aviator and without any of his perils.

In Northeastern Tennessee the Raven, now rare and very restricted in its range, occurs mostly among the high mountains bordering the Tennessee-North Carolina state line. The direction of this mountain range is northeast to southwest. Generally speaking, the birds nest most frequently on the southeastern slope where they avoid the chilling northwest winds, an item not to be neglected when we understand that they nest very early, usually during the month of March. They may usually be observed if one is able and willing to make the arduous journey to their haunts along the crests of Roan Mountain, Little Roan Mountain, Yellow Mountain, and The Hump. On June 25, 1936, the members of the T. O. S., who were on the expedition to Roan Mountain had a most beautiful and rare observation of the flight of the Ravens, as seven or eight in number, they sported through the sunlit skies high over the mountain tops.

Near to the State Line, but on the North Carolina side, I knew of a cliff where the Ravens raised their brood each year. Young America is very well versed in such matters also, and in the spring of 1936 the mountain boys sought this particular nest, to which human habitation had too nearly approached, and removed the four young birds from the nest, taking them to two dwellings where they were fed and raised to early maturity. On June

3, 1936, with my colleague, "Bob" Lyle, I was scaling Beech Mountain. Returning from the crest and far too low down on the mountain to encounter these birds, I thought I heard the croak of a Raven, and jokingly I said to Bob, "What will you give me if I show you a Raven?" The same sound that caused me to stop and listen had also reached Bob's ears, and his eagle eye had found a black spot in a distant tree, so quoth he, "Put your glass on the top of yonder tree by the barn above the clearing." And, to our amazement, there sat a Raven. Soon the door of the farm house was opened and two Ravens flew to be fed from the hand of their mistress. We labeled the affair, "Eliza feeding the Ravens."

Some weeks later, wishing to secure photographs, we returned, properly equipped, to the mountain. Upon arrival we found that two of the four birds had been shot and that one had been given to a friend from a neighboring state for a pet. The last one was confined, as it had acquired the bad habit of pulling up young tobacco plants. We were anxious to photograph this bird. Permission being granted, we were escorted to the pen where the bird was kept, only to find it dead, starved for want of proper food. The thoughtless boys meant well, but we were downcast by the thought that four of these noble birds had been destroyed. The nesting site will probably be used no more by the parent birds and the locality is robbed of a novel interest. How beautiful would have been the sight of the six Ravens flying high over the cliffs—their home.

JOHNSON CITY, TENN.

BIRD BANDING BREVITIES—NO. 10

BY AMELIA R. LASKEY

The question has often come to my mind: During a given migration period, of what value are banding station results as a criterion for relative abundance of various species of warblers in that general area? Would a compilation of the lists of one or more field observers for a certain period show any parallels in relative abundance of the different species when compared with the banding list of a systematic trapper during the same period? In September and October of 1926, a total of 122 Warblers were banded. They were trapped in two traps of the four cell top-opening type with dripping water as the lure, and included 5 Black-and-White; 2 Black-poll; 5 Black-throated Green; 1 Blackburnian; 4 Canada; 3 Chestnut-sided; 9 Magnolia; 2 Myrtle; 2 Nashville; 5 Redstarts; 59 Tennessee; 3 Wilson's; 1 Yellow; and 21 Yellowthroats. The latter group may have included some of the Northern race as there was considerable range in measurements. There were several Maryland Yellowthroat returns, the most interesting of them being H 17839, a male banded September 9, 1932, retaken September 19, 1936, his fifth season at the station. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was caught in a drip trap on September 15th, a Baltimore Oriole in female plumage on September 16th, and a Hermit Thrush on October 2nd. It was surprising to learn how numerous Screech Owls proved to be; 5 individuals were caught in the same Verbail pole trap, banded, and deported between August 18 and October 2, 1936 (3 in gray plumage and 2 in the brown phase)—Two Lincoln Sparrows were banded October 11th—A Downy Woodpecker banded in March 1932 was found dead a half mile north in

September, 1936, being then more than 5 years of age. Two Starlings, banded here in February, 1934, were reported from Ohio (probably killed) on July 29 and August 27, 1936 respectively.——By October 1st, four Mockingbirds were each occupying a quarter of our 200 x 300 ft. lot, allowing no others to come in. Excepting ABA, all were new arrivals and are still here, except the one that disappeared in December. During this mild winter, these three male territory holders have been more zealous in boundary line demonstrations than were the territory holders during the unusually severe winter of the previous year. This was particularly noticeable in the frequent dancing, (the hopping forward, backward, sideways, as the two participants face each other), the more frequent fights, and the earlier singing. Two females in sooty plumage arrived on March 6th. Each immediately entrapped herself on the territory of the bird courting her. One proved to be a fall transient banded Sept. 2, 1935 who apparently left immediately this spring but the other bird remained to mate with ABA. This is another instance where the oldest resident Mockingbird began his spring singing first and was mated before his neighbors on adjoining territory.——White-crowned Sparrows have apparently almost deserted this section, only 3 having been banded thus far this season. During the preceding three years the numbers were 26, 54, and 42 for the same periods of 1935, 1934, 1933 respectively. Three, banded in 1933, returned this year for their fourth winter, one of which was banded as an adult and is now at least 5 years old. A Gambel's Sparrow came for its third consecutive season.——Field Sparrow H 33974, a summer resident, was retaken on March 15th, his 5th spring appearance. His 161 repeat records indicate four summers were spent nearby. H 38833 reappeared March 15th, also a summer resident that has entrapped himself more than 450 times.—— Two Juncos returned for their fourth winter. Another individual was banded on March 6th that appeared to be a typical Carolina Junco. The head, back, and breast were uniformly slate gray without the slightest tinge of brown on any part of the plumage; the wing measured 3.1 inches and the three outer pairs of rectrices were largely white. Many interesting variations of plumage color are noted among Juncos. One banded in February, 1935, which stops in fall and spring as a migrating return, was examined again in March, 1937, and still retains the pinkish brown sides which were noted the first year trapped.——Robin No. B 27751 (also blue celluloid band), taken September 15, 1933, in adult male plumage, returned in January of 1937. He is known to have nested in the garden in 1935 and 1936.——During January and February, Mr. A. F. Ganier trapped and banded some of the birds that came to his feeding trays. Among them were 16 Cardinals, providing another instance of the shifting winter population, the constant moving on, of small groups of this species. On February 28th he trapped a female Cardinal which Arthur McMurray had banded as a juvenile at the Jones Avenue substation, ¾ of a mile northeast, on August 7, 1936. On Feb. 14, Mr. Ganier banded a Brown Thrasher, the sooty plumage indicating a winter resident of the Nashville area. He also obtained an interesting record of an old Robin No. A 292595 banded May 20, 1932, as an adult by Mrs. Arch Cochran within a mile of his home. This bird is at least in its 6th year of age.——At the Belair substation, Steve Lawrence banded 9 Hermit Thrushes between October 20 and November 2, 1936, trapping all but two of them between the 28th and 30th.——Leo Rippy caught a Chickadee at the Love Hill substation in

December 1936 that had been banded there in December 1932. He also recaptured a White-throated Sparrow which has now stopped at his home three successive years.——William Simpson and Francis Lawrence did some good work in obtaining a Red-shouldered Hawk and a Great Horned Owl from persons who had caught them in steel traps. These birds were banded and released in wooded sections as their injuries were slight.

NASHVILLE, TENN., March 15, 1937.

ONE YEAR OF BIRD BANDING

BY SARAH OGLEVIE ROGERS

On May 31, 1935, I banded my first bird—a Chimney Swift (and his mate also) that had come down the chimney at my sister's home. My permit had arrived a few days before and scattered around me were bulletins stating that during the previous year, this or that individual had banded a thousand or even as many as three thousand birds. The Swifts had come into my hands so easily and so high were my hopes that I saw no reason why I, living more than half the year in a remote "woodsy" spot where birds of many species abounded, should not aspire to, at least, a thousand during my first year of banding.

June was a memorable month! The manual containing directions for constructing traps had not arrived, nor had I had the opportunity to accept Mrs. Laskey's cordial invitation to inspect her traps, so I spent all my spare moments in search of nests in order that I might band the fledglings. Within fifty yards of our log cabin were nests of the Catbird, Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Bewick and Carolina Wren, Cardinal, Bluejay, Bluebird, Tufted Titmouse, Orchard Oriole, Summer Tanager, Redbellied Woodpecker, Dove and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. In my rambles over the farm I found those of the Indigo Bunting and Chipping Sparrow, in addition to many of the above mentioned species. At my sister's were those of the Flicker, Starling, Robin, Grackle, Barn Swallow and Red-winged Blackbird. Little darkies were rewarded for reporting to me their finds among the blackberry bushes, and my friends were urged to notify me of every potential bird around their own homes.

When July arrived I had almost exhausted my supply of bands so I sent a request for more stating, in my enthusiasm and ignorance, that I was desirous of banding every bird hatched on the farm.

Early in July my husband made my first trap—the regulation 4-4 drop type. Within the first hour after it was set up I had caught two Bewick's Wrens and an English Sparrow. But after that first hour, many hours and even many days passed when I captured not even so much as a sparrow. I hid among the euonymus bushes and watched Carolina Wrens perch aloft the trap and sing merrily; Blue-gray Gnatcatchers brushed the sides in pursuit of insects; Brown Thrashers and Catbirds pecked at bread and berries around it but did not enter far enough for me to feel safe in pulling the string.

In early August immature Chipping Sparrows were numerous and I captured 12, also an occasional Catbird or Mockingbird. By now my supply of bands was completely exhausted and, in reply to my second request for more, I reecived only the notice that "Promiscuous banding of fledglings is not encouraged." I wondered if the Biological Survey would ever send me any more bands. The second week in September a plentiful supply arrived, but, too late for the Catbirds and Thrashers that had frequented my traps during those dry hot days in late August.

I had purchased a warbler trap and, although I tried drips, drops and steady streams of water as bait, not one of the hundreds of warblers that passed through our woodland during September and October ever entered it, preferring rather to splash in the tiny stream below the spring. Nature offered too much for me to lure many species into my traps those autumn days. On cooler mornings I captured a few Titmice, Carolina Wrens and Chickadees. My greatest thrill came when two adult Bluebirds entered my trap one morning for pokeberries.

In November we came in town, to the apartment and there seemed nothing around us but the English Sparrows that devoured my sunflower seed and crumbs. But with the snows came flocks of Grackles and Starlings, They were not particular as to food, entering my three traps readily even when on an upstairs porch. Their arrival was so unexpected that I gave out of bands but this time my request for more was promptly acknowledged. Occasionally a hungry Mackingbird or Carolina Wren came to my traps. In the spring there were around us a few Robins, Thrashers, Bluejays and Catbirds and they entered my traps more readily than they would ever have done out in the country. But they were not very numerous and, needless to say, my records showed a conspicuous absence of banded fledglings.

So when the year ended I had not banded my thousand birds, nor even so much as a representative of every species around me, for I was able to report only 338 birds of 20 species. But even though I fell far short of my goal, I found it more fascinating than any work or play I have ever done, and I still look forward to the day, however distant, when I shall realize that I have, with my own hands, banded a thousand tiny creatures that have flown away, perchance to be heard from again.

PULASKI, TENN.

Avery Island, Louisiana, 100 miles west of New Orleans, is one of the most interesting places that can be visited by the student of bird and plant life. It is here that Mr. E. A. McIlhenny created the great nesting sanctuary for Snowy Egrets and other water birds and here may also be found certain species of land birds peculiar to the coastal region. The great moss-covered live oaks, the groves of immense bamboo, the orange trees in bearing and countless other species of interesting plant-life assembled on the spacious grounds and gardens, are a treat indeed to the naturalist. In a letter to the Editor from Mr. McIlhenny he says that he will be pleased to welcome any of our members who may wish to visit his place for inspection and study. They are requested to get in touch with him however, to insure admittance to the grounds without charge.

C-H-A-T

BY BENJ. R. WARRINER

John Burroughs said that the Yellow-breasted Chat "barks like a puppy, mews like a cat, quacks like a duck, and squalls like a fox." The rollicking fellow does indeed strike all of these discords, and more; hence I am borrowing his name as title for this featherly hodgepodge . . . Nature slipped a cog and made the male Bobolink topsy-turvy. The bird's light colors, yellow and white, are on top; nether parts are black, a reversal of the usual order . . . The most elusive spot in all Bird-dom is the concealed patch of red atop the head of the male Ruby-crowned Kinglet. It is difficult enough to find this Lilliputian among birds, and doubly hard to persuade him to flash his gay top piece . . . Only once in a period of fourteen years as an amateur bird student, have I heard the wild, weird scream of a Loon. On a January day, at Waukomis Lake in northeast Mississippi, I saw and heard my first Loon . . . As a rule male birds wear gayer colors than those worn by their mates. The Belted Kingfishers are among the few exceptions. The female has bright chestnut sides and breast band, a touch of color quite lacking in the male . . . The Cardinal has everything to make him a perfect befeathered gentleman—the manners of a Chesterfield, the dress of a Beau Brummel, the song of a McCormack. Yet the Cardinal is only a sparrow . . . The Osprey depends for his living on his quick, sharp, cruel clams. When circling a lake in search of prey, frequently he pauses dead still in mid-air and shoots downward his talons, just as tho to keep in practice by clutching an imaginary victim . . . No artist except expert nature could reproduce the metallic sheen that adorns head and neck of the male Bronzed Grackle . . . I never heard a Shrike sing but one time. The scamp did pretty well for a butcher . . . The Wood Thrush is the most appropriately named bird I know. His song is symbolic of the very spirit of the trees; emblematic of everything that is lovely in wooded dale . . . The blending of the gray-brown feathers of the Brown Creeper with tree bark is a perfect fade-out; the best sort of protection against enemys of the little "tree-mouse" . . . The Whip-poor-will sits longitudinally upon a limb rather than cross-wise. I once found one thus perched in the daytime . . . The Arctic Tern is the world's champion migrant. From North Polar regions to antipedal parts of the earth and back again he goes each year; his annual journey covers twenty-two thousand miles and more . . . The Blackpoll Warbler brings up the rear for all the hosts of migrants. I have seen these birds in late May, loitering along, wholly indifferent to the fact that they still had two thousand miles to go before reaching their journey's end . . . Only two warblers winter in the Mid-South—the Myrtle and the Pine. The trill of the Pine Warbler always adds a bit of sweet music to the customary winter solitude . . . The Tufted Titmouse, to my mind, has the most beautiful eyes to be found among the birds. They shine like rounded bits of polished ebony . . . The Swamp Sparrows needs only that the water's surface have a slim, thin covering of floating weeds, moss, and grass, to enable him to lightly trip across it . . . And so on, I could continue this c-h-a-t for another page and more, the world of birds is full of surprises and unaccountable things.

CORINTH, MISSISSIPPI.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CENSUS

BY OUR MEMBERS

The Migrant's 8th Annual State-wide Christmas Census of winter bird life is presented below. As usual, we also include a list from Corinth, Miss., just south of the Tennessee line. The lists were made as near Christmas as possible and are of considerable value, especially when combined with those of previous years, to ascertain the relative abundance of our winter birds throughout the State. Our annual mid-winter census stands out as one of the most worth while activities of the T.O.S. Six species were found this year which were not on last year's list; viz., Little Blue Heron, Baldpate Duck, Woodcock, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Maryland Yellowthroat and Brown-headed Nuthatch (this at Corinth, Miss.) Species listed in 1935 and not found in 1936 were Gadwall, Bufflehead and Ruddy Dicks, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Warbler, Rusty Blackbird, Tree, Chipping and Lincoln's Sparrows. The Memphis group made a much more thorough coverage of their area than did any other. The composite list for the ten Tennessee localities numbers 87, which may be compared with the four preceding years when 88, 88, 90 and 87 were listed. Other Christmas census lists, from Chattanooga, Winchester and the Great Smokies, will be found in The Round Table.—EDITOR.

	Memphis Dec. 26, 1936	Paris Dec. 25	Corinth, Miss. Dec. 25	Clarksville Dec. 20	Nashville Dec. 27	Murfreesboro Dec. 20	Columbia Jan. 3	White Bluff Jan. 10	Knoxville Dec. 27	Norris Dec. 26	Johnson City Dec. 27 and 28
Number of species	70	35	44	58	62	46	35	39	51	47	34
Number of individuals	16170	405	885	1221	3170	1730	715*	926	612	1125	658
Number of observers	20	4	2	9	16	2	10	5		3	2
Horned Grebe	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Pied-billed Grebe	..	..	5	1	..	1	..	..	1	6	..
Double-cr Cormorant	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
Great Blue Heron	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..
Little Blue Heron (adult)	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canada Goose	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Mallard	250	5	..	..	11	..	..	..	15	350	..
Black Duck	6	..	..	1	7	..	..	..	..	275	..
Baldplate	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pintail	100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Green-winged Teal	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	1	10	..
Blue-winged Teal	200	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wood Duck	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ring-necked Duck	500	..	..	44	26	..	..	..	1	..	..
Canvasback	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Lesser Scaup	104	..	5	..	16	..	..	..	..	8	..
American Goldeneye	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hooded Merganser	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Duck unidentified	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Black Vulture	5	..	..	1	10	40	18	5	..	..	3
Turkey Vulture	8	13	18	12	14	..	..	..	2	..	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Coopers Hawk	2	..	..	..	4	2	1	2	..	..	1
Red-tailed Hawk	6	1	1	2	4	..	3	..	..	2	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	17	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marsh Hawk	7	1	..	3	..	1	1	..	1	..	..
Sparrow Hawk	23	1	..	1	19	4	4	..	3	1	6
Bob-white	41	4	..	20	19	..	..	1	18	2	6
Coot	..	..	..	4	11	4	..	..	..	20	..
Killdeer	51	1	4	1	45	14	2	..	3	..	..
Woodcock	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Wilsons Snipe	2	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..
Herring Gull*	4	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..

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Ring-billed Gull	48	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mourning Dove	17	8	65	9	33	2	10	6	2	45	3
Screech Owl	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	1	..	1
Barred Owl	3	..	4	2	2	2	..	..	1	..	..
Great Horned Owl	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Belted Kingfisher	5	1	..	3	2	..	..	..	2	2	2
Flicker	170	3	18	23	27	21	8	7	9	10	1
Pileated Woodpecker	2	..	2	3	4	..	..	1	3	1	..
Red-bellied Woodpecker	56	..	8	9	16	3	4	8	5	1	..
Red-headed Woodpecker*	103	2	14	4	..	2	..	6	2	..	1
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	56	2	4	3	7	1	2	..	1	1	..
Hairy Woodpecker	11	1	..	6	7	3	1	1	..	..	1
Downy Woodpecker	23	10	1	13	19	4	2	6	6	2	3
Phoebe	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	2	..
Horned Lark*	12	..	..	..	358	75	..	7	..	..	..
Blue Jay	401	17	8	12	24	5	3	10	20	25	12
Crow	112	16	45	44	131	900	500	44	27	40	56
Carolina Chickadee	90	8	35	63	71	20	9	33	20	9	8
Tufted Titmouse	42	..	4	40	31	15	6	33	37	11	13
White-breasted Nuthatch	13	..	..	3	3	1	..	2	2	..	4
Brown-headed Nuthatch	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brown Creeper	36	..	6	2	2	5	1	1	..	..	..
Winter Wren	17	3	2	1	3	..	..	1	..	..	..
Bewicks Wren	..	..	..	3	7	7	2	3	..	1	..
Carolina Wren	75	..	6	31	23	6	6	10	10	3	9
Mockingbird	76	..	10	22	59	26	5	4	19	1	8
Brown Thrasher	14	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Robin	663	..	100	18	175	3	54	..	4	11	103
Hermit Thrush	10	..	2	1	3	..	5	4	2	..	..
Bluebird	43	..	40	47	62	22	20	20	26	12	31
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	29	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Golden-crown Kinglet	57	..	35	2	3	4	..	..	..	..	..
American Pipet	27	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
Cedar Waxwing	610	..	30	42	317	..	..	70	35	30	40
Migrant Shrike*	28	..	2	..	2	2	..	..	1	..	4
Starling*	671	..	20	33	580	31	40M	..	65	1	38
Myrtle Warbler	109	..	20	27	41	30	150	5	31	7	..
Maryland Yellowthroat*	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
English Sparrow	com.	40	75	205	100	8	15	19	55	pres.	85
Meadowlark	363	..	..	10	72	13	2	25	..	4	4
Red-wing Blackbird	370	..	15	60	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronzed Grackle	5377	30	25	..	27	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cowbird	1	..	..	..	35	30	..	..	..	1	..
Cardinal	335	8	20	70	133	16	35	43	33	8	17
Purple Finch	19	..	3	7	18	15	9	23	30	..	..
Goldfinch	146	5	25	40	74	30	1	14	19	60	50
Towhee	121	31	4	29	50	..	9	24	3	4	..
Savannah Sparrow	31	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	2	1	..
Fox Sparrow	..	..	..	..	15	1	..	1	..	2	..
Vesper Sparrow	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Slate-colored Junco*	1172	60	150	101	520	150	85	390	1	65	80
Field Sparrow	162	14	60	25	80	41	16	10	20	35	6
White-crowned Sparrow	14	..	..	25	23	19	..	12	3	..	18
White-throat Sparrow	1745	32	35	43	44	18	65	29	35	15	9
Swamp Sparrow	502	..	5	10	29	..	..	6	3	1	..
Song Sparrow	284	4	20	17	31	30	6	37	23	30	22

*Notes on the 1936 Christmas Census.

Ducks; those at Nashville were mostly on Radnor Lake but shooting here has greatly decreased their numbers over past years. Those reported at Norris were found on Norris Lake.

The Herring Gulls at Nashville were observed on the Lake, Dec. 26.

Red-headed Woodpeckers have been more numerous in Tennessee than usual.

The Horned Larks were presumed to be mostly the Prairie, tho one collected at Murfreesboro proved to be the Northern form.

Robins were just moving northward into Tennessee at Christmas time.

Some of the Shrikes reported at Memphis may have been the Loggerhead.

Starlings; The "40M" shown for Columbia indicates 40,000. Most of these were in one immense flocks, extending nearly a mile long over the Duck River bottoms.

The Maryland Yellowthroat on Memphis list, was observed near Mud Lake, in a brushy weed field, by Clayton and Vardaman, who studied it close up with 6x glasses for 10 minutes.

Juncos, more numerous than usual, continue to be our most abundant winter bird.

MEMPHIS: Dec. 26; 6:30 a. m. to 5:15 p. m.; partly cloudy; temp 50-60; practically same territory as last year, i.e., a comprehensive canvas of Memphis suburban areas and adjacent territory, east of the river. Observers; Mr. and Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Miss Mary Davant, Mrs. T. I. Klyce, Messrs. George Clayton, Jr., Harold Elphingstone, Fred Fiedler Jr., William Fisher, Robert Hovis, James Martens, Joe Miller, Hugh McCain, Malcolm Parker, John Pond, Bob Shaffer, Richard Taylor, Eugene Wallace, Eldon White, Wendell Whittemore and Russell Wilkinson.

PARIS: Dec 25; 9 a. m. to 5 p. m.; fair; windy; temp. 42; Hilltop, Holly Fork and Eagle Creek bottoms; observers, Buster Thompson, Percy Bighorn, Fred Holder and Richard Hudson.

CORINTH, MISS.: Dec 25, 10:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.; partly cloudy; temp 50; 5 miles south and west including Waukomis Lake, pine hills and Tuscumbia River bottoms. Benj. R. Warriner and Elgin Wright.

CLARKSVILLE: Dec 20; 8 a. m. to 4 p. m.; fair; west wind; temp 28-40; Dunbar's Cave park and lake, Neblett's Slough and river bottoms, and one party of 3 in canoe all day on and along Cumberland and Red Rivers. Observers, Lamar Armstrong, Alfred Sr., Alfred Jr., and Wm. A. Clebsch, Clarence Collier, Mrs. John Y. Hutchinson, Billy Noland, Dr. Chas. F. Pickering and Jas. A. Robins.

NASHVILLE: Dec 27; 7 a. m. to 5 p. m.! temp 56-65; partly clear in a. m., steady rain after 1 p. m. curtailing observations. Environs of Nashville south and west of the city, including Radnor Lake, Warner Park, Bellemeade, Hillsboro, Harding and Charlotte Roads. Observers; Mr. and Mrs. Ben Abernathy, John B. Calhoun, A. F. Ganier, Wayland and Jack Hayes, Mrs. F. C. Laskey, S. and F. Lawrence, G. R. Mayfield, H. C. Monk, C. E. Pearson, Leo Rippy Jr., Wm. Simpson, Mrs. C. B. Tippens, H. O. Todd and G. B. Woodring.

MURFREESBORO: Dec 20; 6:30 a. m. to 5 p. m.; clear and cold. East and west of town, covering about 20 miles on foot and in car. Observers, Henry O. Todd and John B. Calhoun.

COLUMBIA: Jan 3; 9 a. m. to 2 p. m.; fair; temp 40-50. O. J. Porter farm on Duck River, also along highway in Maury County. M. F. Carter, Miss Elam, J. J. Gray, A. F. Ganier, G. R. Mayfield, H. C. Monk, Mrs. W. P. Morgan, Dr. O. J. Porter, Leo Rippy Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Sam H. Rogers, W. E. Stewart, Dr. H. S. Vaughn and Dr. George Williamson.

WHITE BLUFF (in Montgomery Bell Park): Jan 10; 8 a. m. to 4 p. m.; raining all day; temp 45. Three parties, covering about 10 miles in all, thru unsettled area. A. F. Ganier, H. C. Monk, J. M. Shaver, H. S. Vaughn and G. B. Woodring

KNOXVILLE: Dec 27; 8a. m. to 4 p. m. Environs of city including Island Home reservation, Lake Andrew Jackson, Chilhowee Park, Fountain City, etc. Observers; Mr. and Mrs. Bob Burch, George Foster Jr., Dr. Earl Henry, Harry P. Ijams and Jim Trent Jr.

NORRIS: Dec 26; 6:30 a. m. to 4:45 p. m.; overcast and hazy; temp 35-50. On Norris Lake and its various bays 65 miles by motorboat, also by car from Careyville Lake to Norris Park and area north of Norris with frequent detours afoot enroute. George Foster Jr., Dr. Earl O. Henry and Jim Trent Jr.

JOHNSON CITY: Dec 27 and 28, 12 hours in all. Llewellen Wood, Cox's Lake, Boones Creek and Chucky River. Robt. B. Lyle and Bruce P. Tyler.

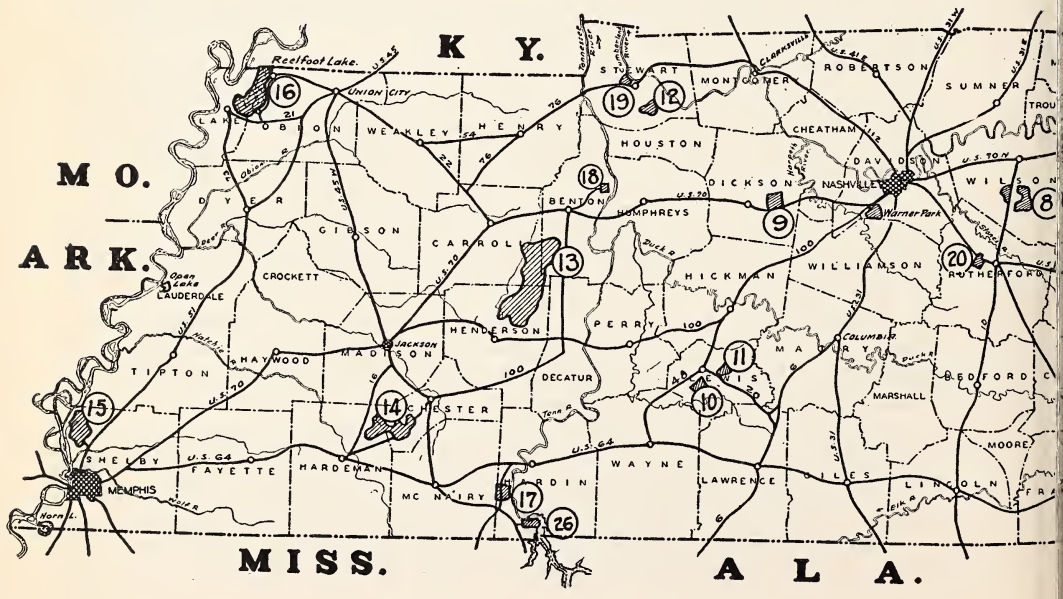
TENNESSEE'S WILDWOOD PARKS

By Albert F. Ganier

Lovers of nature on their trips and excursions far afield, frequently come upon outstanding areas of scenic interest, of noble forests, of primitive streams lined with rhododendron, laurel and plant life of the untouched wilderness, and always—there comes the wish that these examples of nature's wildwood beauty could be preserved and made accessible to all of our people. Too often, we return in later years and find only a pile of sawdust from a band-mill, the fallen treetops seared by woods fire, lean cattle grazing the young plants struggling to carry on, the streams dried up, and hillside gullies beginning to form.

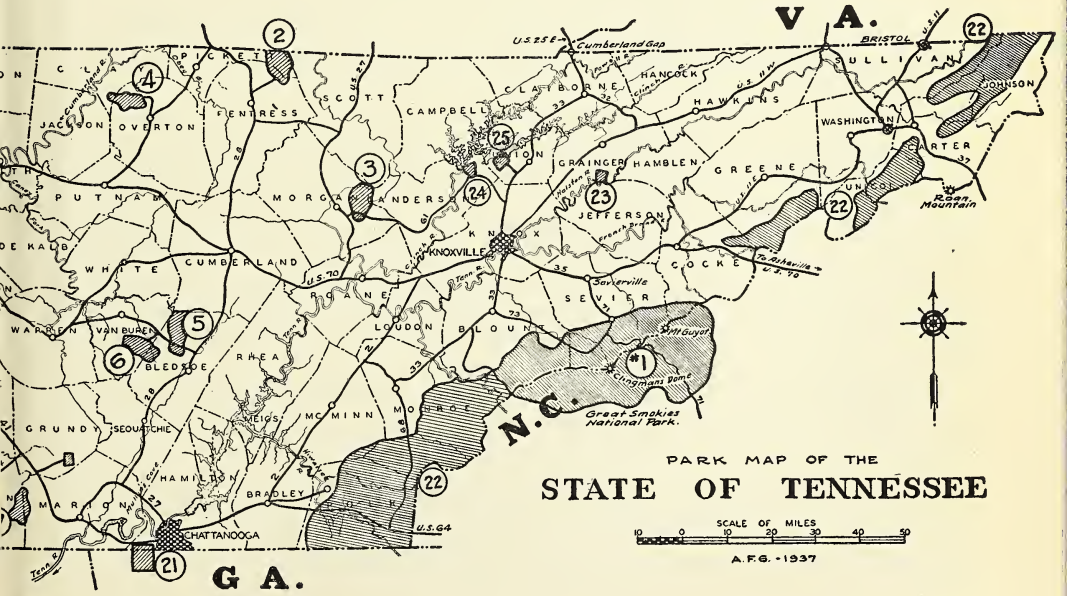
The hope of saving at least a few of these areas has been strong among all members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society and conservationists generally. We who have learned to appreciate the charm of the woods and fields have longed to put Dame Nature "on parade," where she might become known and enjoyed by the rank and file. We have aspired to create havens for our hard pressed birds, mammals and even the fish, turtles and other humble creatures, where they might live in safety from human enemies and be as they were in the days of the Redman.

Our Great Smoky Mountains National Park was splendid in its conception and in its final realization. Here were rescued, in the nick of time, some thousands of acres of the forest primeval, in an area where plant and animal life will always be a joy to the naturalist. The sentiment developed during the Smokies campaign, under the fine leadership of Col. David Chapman,



helped pave the way for lesser parks of varied interest thruout the State and in this latter movement great credit is due Mr. J. O. Hazard, our present State Forester. Although most of these parks are as yet only in the making, it would seem timely to give their status and to urge our readers to visit them and to co-operate in their final development.

No.	*Name.*	*Purpose.*	*County.*	*Acreage.*
1.	Great Smoky Mountains National Park.		Sevier-Blount	440,000
2.	Pickett Forest.	State park and forest.	Pickett	11,500
3.	Morgan Forest.	State park and forest.	Morgan	8,500
4.	Standing stone.	State park and forest.	Overton-Clay	8,500
5.	Bledsoe Forest.	State park and forest.	Bledsoe	7,500
6.	Falls Creek Park.	State park and forest.	Van Buren-Bledsoe	15,000
7.	Franklin Forest.	State park and forest.	Franklin-Marion	7,000
8.	Lebanon Cedar Forest.	State park and forest.	Wilson	10,000
9.	Montgomery Bell Park.	State park and forest.	Dickson	4,000
10.	Lewis Forest.	State park and forest.	Lewis	1,259
11.	Merriwether Lewis National Monument Park.		Lewis	300
12.	Stewart Forest.	State forest and park.	Stewart	4,000
13.	Natchez Trace Forest.	State forest and park.	Henderson-Carroll	45,000
14.	Chickasaw Forest.	State forest and park.	Chester-Hardeman	10,000
15.	Shelby Forest.	State park.	Shelby	10,600
16.	Reelfoot Lake.	State recreation park.	Lake-Obion (water)	14,400
17.	Shiloh Battlefield.	National Military Park.	Hardin	3,583
18.	Nathan Bedford Forest State Memorial Park.		Benton	80
19.	Ft. Donelson National Military Park.		Stewart	92
20.	Stones River Battlefield.	Nat. Mil. Park.	Rutherford	410
21.	Chickamauga Battlefield.	Nat. Mil. Park.	Hamilton, etc.	5,951
22.	Cherokee National Forest.	Federal.	Polk-Monroe	474,934
23.	Buffalo Springs Game Preserve.	Federal.	Grainger	400
24.	Norris Park.	Tenn. Valley Authority.	Anderson	4,000
25.	Big Ridge Park.	Tenn. Valley Authority.	Union	3,000
26.	Pickwick Dam Park.	Tenn. Valley Authority.	Hardin	1,500



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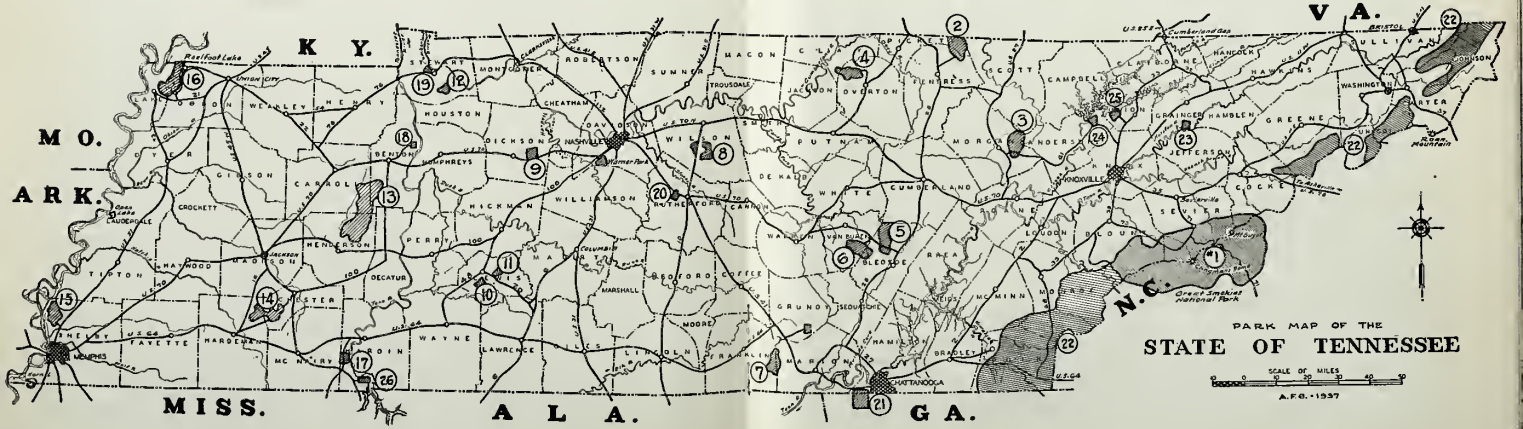

Additional data on the above mentioned parks.

1—In our Great Smokies National Park is found the grandest mountain chain east of the Rockies, rising on Clingman's Dome to 6,642 feet above sea level. Under National Park Service administration, the native wild life will be carefully conserved, a park naturalist and assistants being provided for. Of the designated acreage, 402,000 acres have been actually purchased. The park has not yet been formally opened and camping facilities have not been constructed as yet. Auto roads and many trails have been built.

2—The Pickett Forest takes in the western portion of "The Wilderness" and contains the headwaters of Wolf River whose tributaries here cut their way into the Cumberland Plateau with deep canyons rimmed by high sandstone cliffs. With possibly one or two execptions, this will be our most beautiful park. It is being developed under National Park Service supervision as is also the Falls Creek Park and several others. A 12-acre lake has been built and 30 miles of trails have been constructed, leading to natural bridges, rock shelters, waterfalls, etc. A commodious lodge and two cabins have been built to date. This park is on highway No. 28, north of Jamestown.

3—Morgan Forest lies northwest of Petros, where the state mines are located. It embraces the valleys of Flat Fork Creek to the summit of Frozenhead Mountain and others of the Cumberland Range which reach their apex at Cross Mountain (3350's.l.) a few miles east. Improvements in the park are under way.

4—Standingstone, so called for a large stone set on end to mark an Indian boundary, lies on the Cumberland Plateau west of Livingston. A 35-acre lake has been created and nearby is a 12-room lodge, several overnight cabins and other recreational facilities.

5—Bledsoe Forest, also on The Plateau, was originally purchased many years ago as The Herbert Domain. On it is located a reform school for negro youths. It embraces the deep "gulfs" of Bee and Glade Creeks which are rimmed with high cliffs. The streams are bordered with hemlocks. Between Spencer and Pikeville on highway 30. Facilities are not as yet ready for the public.

6—Falls Creek Park, also between Spencer and Pikeville, is on and south of highway 30. It embraces the deep "gulfs" of Caney, Falls, Piney Creeks and lesser streams, each of which make beautiful waterfalls as they leap over the cliffs into the gorges below. These waterfalls, with their hemlock filled canyons and pine-clad varicolored escarpments, are considered the most beautiful bits of scenery in the State. Falls Creek Falls is said to be 256 feet in height and the highest in the Eastern United States. Dams are to be constructed above the falls to form recreation lakes and to insure adequate water for the cataracts in dry weather. A lodge and several cabins have been constructed.

7—Franklin Forest lies south of Cowan on the Cumberland Plateau which here begins to take the name of Sand Mountain. Developments here are in their early stages.

8—Lebanon Cedar Forest will endeavor to feature the cedar woods which from earliest times has been a great resource of this region. Cedar "glades" too are here and are of interest to the naturalist. Jackson Cave is on attraction as are also some of the high knobs which lie within this area. It is located about midway between Murfreesboro and Lebanon.

9—Montgomery Bell Park, named for an early iron founder, lies in the Highland Rim area, on highway No. 1 a few miles west of White Bluff. Its feature will be a 50-acre lake which will be fed by a creek and a very fine spring. Week-end cabins are being built and the dam is under construction.

10—Lewis Forest, a few miles southwest of Hohenwald, is unimproved.

11—About the monument of the early explorer, is a well wooded tract, typical of the this "Flatwoods" region. The old "Natchez Trace," an old pioneer road, is here visible. East of Hohenwald.

12—A cut-over Highland Rim area, unimproved as yet.

13—This immense tract is chiefly a re-settlement and forestation project but three lakes are being constructed with recreational areas adjacent. These lakes are to be 55, 95 and 147 acres respectively. A lodge and vacation cabins have been built. The area lies between Lexington and Camden. The old pioneer trace, from Natchez to Fort Massac (near Paducah), gives the park its name.

14—The Chickasaw Indians were found in this region, hence the name of this park. Highway 100 runs thru this area which lies a few miles west of Henderson. One of several lakes planned, is under construction. Piney woods are to be found here.

16—The Shelby Forest, a short distance north of Memphis and near the Mississippi River, will have the usual recreational faciltiies of a State park and will be attractive to the naturalist wishing to study the fauna and flora of the Mississippi "bottoms."

16—Reelfoot Lake, so widely known to all of us, needs no introduction. The lake itself with its picturesque cypress trees and the abundant bird life, deserves one or more visits from all. Camp grounds are being provided but are as yet entirely inadequate. Privately owned camps however are available in sufficient numbers.

Other areas, for lack of space, must be more briefly mentioned. 17—Shiloh Battlefield occupies an oak-woods flat plain on the west bank of the Tennessee River. On its bluffs above the stream are some well preserved Indian mounds. 18—The Forest monument is located on a high hill overlooking the Tennessee River and on its west bank. It is reached from Camden. 19—Ft. Donelson is picturesquely located on high hills with a commanding view down the picturesque Cumberland. Lock D is here and at Dover nearby is the historic Hobing House and local museum. 20—The battlefield is just north of Murfreesboro and is a flat cedar-grown area of little other than historic interest. 21—Chickamauga lies mostly below the Tennessee line; a rolling terrain, partly grown with some fine forests of pine and oak. 22—The greater portion of the vast Cherokee Forest lies in the watersheds of the Tellico, Hiwassee and Ocoee Rivers, occupying the mountain areas in the south-east tip of the state. There are many fine forests here, rapid streams, waterfalls and the southern Unakas, the highest of which is Big Frog Mountain, of more than 4300 ft. elevation. 23—The Buffalo Springs project is chiefly a breeding ground for game with extensive rearing pools for fish, tho recreational facilities are also provided, including a lake and cabins. 24—Norris Park lies adjacent to and just east of the great Cove Creek Dam. It is on the lower end of Norris Lake which has a maximum area at flood stage of

34,200 acres and a low water area of 13,500 acres. This immense lake is destined to become a very important way-station for migratory waterfowl. A few miles north-east and bordering on the lake, is Big Ridge Park (25), in which a permanent lake of 45 acres has been created. Recreational facilities, a lodge and cabins have already been constructed. 26—At the Pickwick Dam, across the Tennessee River in Hardin Co., 1500 acres have been set aside as a park to be similar to the last two mentioned. Development is in progress.

Aside from the above described areas which have been definitely set aside for public use there are many more areas of park calibre or interest. Among these are Open Lake (1365 a) in Lauderdale Co.; Lake Obion (1100 a) in the west part of Weakley Co.; Horn Lakes (2300 a) south of Memphis; Sulphur Well with its tupelo swamp, in Henry Co.; "The Peninsular" of Cheatham Co., west of Nashville; Short Mountain in Cannon Co.; Mullin's Cove and The Palisades of The Tennessee near Chattanooga; Roan Mountain; and a number of other areas of scenic interest in East Tennessee.

Our State in time could well earn the reputation of being the premier state for parks of natural and scenic interest.

NASHVILLE, TENN., March 1937.

THE ROUND TABLE

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: The Xmas Census again covered the most likely spots around Memphis and last year's record total of 70 species was reached. Some of last year's best places proved disappointing altho the fact that we reached them in the afternoon instead of in the morning may have had an appreciable influence on the results. Swamp Sparrows were more common than ever before. Of the most uncommon species, the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Thrasher, and Hermit Thrush were not as common as last year but the Brown Creeper, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Fox Sparrow were against above the average. Last season we reported the Brown Thrasher as wintering for the first time in the city, being found fairly common in park and yard. This species was almost as common this year except on the census itself. The number of hawks listed were above the average. Cedar Waxwings, absent some years, were common and have remained so, invading city yards the last two months. The only Rusty Blackbirds listed on any of several census trips in this area were 50, seen just east of Hickory Flat, Mississippi. Mrs. Coffey listed 43 species there on the 25th, while Harold Elpingstone and the writer listed 57 at Houston, 50 miles further south. Mrs. Coffey, as usual, found the resident pair of Brown-headed Nuthatches. While at Houston, a special search netted two pairs in nearby areas east of town and a third pair on the opposite side where the only Pine Warblers (2) for all trips were found. A Pied-billed Grebe and three Ring-necked Ducks on a small stock pond, a Great Blue Heron on a narrow sand creek, and a bat flying over the road at dusk, are worthy of mention.

December 27, 1936, a trip was made to Moon Lake near Lula, Miss., where our party last year had outstanding opportunities for closer acquaintance-ship with several species of ducks, some of which we failed to find this trip.

Heavy downpours delayed our start and an almost continuous drizzle made us stay close to the car and reduced our land bird count. A fog over the lake lifted and allowed us to use a 40x telescope as well as our usual 8x glasses in trying to pick out other species of ducks from among "strings" of Ruddy Ducks. The number of this rare species was carefully estimated at 4220, a surprising concentration to say the least. Also listed were Shoveller, 23; Canvas-back, 4; *beautiful* Buffle-head, 17; Am. Merganser, 4 (second personal record); also Coot, 7; and Double-crested Cormorant, 40. The writer failed last year to see the 3 Horned Grebes noted separately by Fred Carney, et al. But this species was really added to the "life-list" on this trip, 22 being recorded, compared with 8 Pied-billeds.——Unfavorable weather limited field work in January and February. A single trip was made to Lakeview Feb. 20, when nothing unusual was seen except a LeConte's Sparrow as noted elsewhere. On March 13 we saw two Lesser Yellowlegs there. This species might have been recorded earlier but on the 6th we didn't reach favorable territory until dark and on the 7th we were rained out. On March 20 three Lesser Yellowlegs and sixteen Pectoral Sandpipers were found at the same "highway" pit. Four Baldpates were noted on the big "roost" pit along with Coots, six Shovellers and other ducks. They or four others, were seen the next day on Mud Lake by Whittemore, et al. who added 8 Gadwalls, 7 Ruddy Ducks, and 8 Wood Ducks. On the 25th at North Lake, McCamey and party listed 70 Ruddy Ducks, 80 Shovellers, and 2 Tree Swallows. At the "highway" pit, 25 Pectorals, 3 Lesser Yellowlegs, and 5 Shovellers were noted. The actions of a Pied-billed Grebe indicated it was attempting to build a nest. This "highway" pit is that barrow-pit in the triangle formed by the Y. and M. V. R. R., the levee, and Highway 61, and the site of as many as ten grebe nests in certain previous years which have been recorded in past issues of *The Migrant*. The pit is full of water this year after being dry last season, but there is now practically no cover, weed stalks having been burned off last fall. However, cover has not always been adequate heretofore and we may expect a few nests anyway, in situations entirely different from that favored by this species in other sections of this continent.——On March 13 the first Purple Martins were reported. Mr. L. G. Guth had six arrive and remain at his nesting box at Whitehaven and Mr. Jesse Cunningham reported one the same day which inspected the box as it sat on the ground preparatory to re-mounting on its pole. A House Wren was seen on the river bluffs edge at Trigg Avenue, March 11. Harold Elphingstone reported hearing a Black-throated Green Warbler on the 20th and 21st and finally seeing it on the 22nd. Except for March 19, 1933, the previous earliest date has been the 27th. A single Woodcock was noted on a few occasions thruout the winter in the cane-brake in Overton Park.—BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis.

LECONTE'S SPARROW IN MEMPHIS AREA: On Feb. 20, 1937, at Lakeview, Miss., Mrs. Coffey, Miss Alice Smith, John Pond and Tom Simpson discovered a LeConte's Sparrow in the weeds and sedge grass along the big barrow-pit where the blackbirds roost, a mile from the Tennessee line. The bird was collected and later identified by the writer. This is our first record for the Memphis area. A. A. Allison reported this species as fairly common, November 15, 1897, in Amite County, southern Mississippi (*Auk* XVI 1899 p. 268). In Tennessee it has been reported rarely from Middle and East Tennessee.—BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis.

A TRIP TO SULPHUR WELL: A trip to Henry County to locate a heron colony, had been talked of all winter by our local group. Finally the day was set, the ham was baked for lunch and then at the last minute the trip had to be postponed. It was set for the next week-end but "flu" broke this second engagement. The following Saturday however, in spite of cold weather and steady rain, Mr. A. F. Ganier and Dr. H. S. Vaughn drove over from Nashville and we were all ready for an early start next morning. The former had located the herons two years ago and knew there must be a "cranetown" nearby. Those in the party from Clarksville were Mrs. John Y. Hutchinson, Mr. Alfred Clebsch, Alfred Jr. and Billy Clebsch, Lamar Armstrong, Clarence Collier Jr. and Dr. and Mrs. Chas. F. Pickering.

We crossed the Cumberland River at Dover, noting a flock of Lesser Scaup Ducks here in a slough, and then the Tennessee River, pausing on the bridge to watch three Herring Gulls on the water. All thru this section an ice storm prevailed, the trees were bending with their glassy loads and the road was slippery with sleet. Sulphur Well, an old summer resort on Big Sandy River, was our destination and its chief interest to us lay in the extensive swamp of tupelo gum that lies adjacent. When we reached there our party split; five equipped with hip-boots waded into the "Big Slough" section while the balance scouted a route around its edge. At noon, the latter group returned to the grove at the Well and soon had a good fire going and lunch in preparation. A half hour later, whoops and yells from the returning waders gave notice that the quest had been successful. They reported that thirty nests of Great Blue Herons had been found in the tree-tops and that half as many of the birds themselves were already at the nests and ready to repair them. Several last year's nests of Night Herons were also identified in the swamp.

Meanwhile, we had been joined by Mr. Buster Thompson of Paris, bringing with him Messrs. Paul Croswy, Fred Holder, Jr., Joe Witherington and Charles Frazier. After thawing out and eating a good lunch (we discovered that some of the ham had been saved after all), we made another excursion thru the woods to add to our bird records. Our total list for the day was 51 species and of these, 46 were found at or near Sulphur Well, including 5 species of hawks, 6 species of woodpeckers and a woodcock. We are planning to re-visit this interesting place again, later on in the spring.—MRS. CHAS. F. PICKERING, Clarksville.

BALD EAGLES NEAR PARIS: I have records of five immature Bald Eagles having been seen or killed in and around Paris, Tenn., during the past five years. The most recent of these is of a bird that was winged about three months ago at Vale, 16 miles south of here. It is kept in captivity for the wound healed so that it cannot fly again. The bird eats heartily. In 1932, I mounted a specimen for Mr. Will Bruton of Dover, it having been shot east of there on the Cumberland River, near Carlisle. Two birds were killed near the Kentucky line during 1933. The only eagle I have ever seen in life was in Holly Fork bottom in March 1934. Eagle Creek, which runs into the Tennessee near the Kentucky line, may have gotten its name from a resident pair of these birds in early days.—BUSTER THOMPSON, Paris.

TWO INCIDENTS are here given to illustrate the daily drama of bird life.

No. 1, Tragedy.—The following happening was related by Clarence Collier, Jr., whose father became the eye-witness and participator, while the two were bird-hunting early in December. A Bob-white, which had been winged by Mr. Collier's shot, was caught in mid-air by a Cooper's Hawk that darted out of the grove of trees nearby. With another shot Mr. Collier killed the rival hunter and took from his talons the still living Bob-white.

No. 2. Comedy.—Not long ago Dr. Pickering was at one of our favorite haunts, the woods near Dunbar's Cave. Hearing a commotion in the sky he looked up and saw a bunch of Crows having a wonderful time pestering a Barred Owl. The fugitive spied a large, woodpecker-eaten hollow tree and dove headlong into the opening in the top. Promptly there squeezed out of three woodpecker-made side entrances, three much bewildered Gray Squirrels, who had evidently not been looking for company just then.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, SR., Clarksville.

A WINTER LIST FROM WINCHESTER: The following birds were noted in and about Winchester, Tenn., during the last week in December. I was out on four days for about two hours each day. Great Blue Heron (1 on Belvidere pond), Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk (1 near the mountain), Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Bob-white, Dove, Kingfisher (1 at Belvidere pond and 1 on a stream), Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker (2 pair), Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker (seen in 3 places), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Phoebe (seen on two occasions), Horned Lark (a flock of 30), Blue Jay, Crow (thousands in the fields), Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Bewick's Wren (singing on warm mornings), Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Robin (noted fairly common), Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Migrant Shrike (4 seen on a 10 mile drive), Starling, English Sparrow, Myrtle Warbler, Meadowlark, Redwing (1, a female), Cardinal, Goldfinch, Towhee, Junco, Field, White-throated and Song Sparrows. Driving westward, on Jan 3rd near Pulaski, I observed a large flock of male Redwings and Bronzed Grackles.—F. A. PATTIE, JR., Rice Institute, Houston, Texas.
JOHN BAMBERG, Guntersville Dam, Ala.

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS AT CHATTANOOGA: The following list was made on Dec. 31, 1936, between 9 a.m. and noon. A distance of about two and a half miles was covered afoot, along White Oak Road and around Baylor Lake. The weather was partly cloudy, warm (60 to 65 degrees F.) and no wind. Birds seemed scarce and there were no water birds on the lake or Tenn. River nearby. Those in the party were Robert Sparks Walker, Preston Lawrence, Carl Gevers and the writer. Twenty-three species were listed, as follows: Sparrow Hawk 1, Mourning Dove 1, Belted Kingfisher 1, Flicker 4, Downy Woodpecker 2, Blue Jay 4, Crow 4, Tufted Titmouse 10, White-breasted Nuthatch 1, Carolina Wren 4, Mockingbird 1, Brown Thrasher 1, Hermit Thrush 1, Bluebird 2, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1, English Sparrow 4, Cardinal 3, Goldfinch 4, Towhee 3, Slate-colored Junco 6, Field Sparrow 3, White-throated Sparrow 5, Song Sparrow 15.—WILBUR K. BUTTS, PH.D., Dept. of Biology, University of Chattanooga.

THE SEASON AT KNOXVILLE: Now that winter is officially over, a brief resume of the bird news of that period, as reported by members of the Knoxville Chapter is given below.——Shrikes have been found regularly in three localities around Knoxville this winter, and in addition two birds were seen in the Maryville-Alcoa area on Feb. 14.——Both Grackles and Robins wintered here in small numbers. However, on Jan. 10, Robins estimated at 1000 to 1200, appeared at Lake Andrew Jackson. The writer estimated that fully sixty per cent of this flock were in a half-starved condition, an indication they had moved South to a milder climate and a more abundant food supply. Two weeks later a larger flock of Robins was found about 5 miles southeast of the lake. The birds were reported on Jan. 22 and the next day Charles Baird and the writer faced intermittent driving showers to look over a one by two mile area where the birds were found. This trip yielded 30 species, including 2500 Robin, 750 Starling, 500 Cedar Waxwing, 125 Crow, and numerous Purple Finch. Evidently the Robins remained in this vicinity until the flock disbanded the middle of February when small flocks were everywhere abundant.——Altho it is never safe to state the abundance or scarcity of birds, unless you wish to hear the opposite condition from some one else, I might say my personal observation and the records of the Knoxville group give us a basis for the following: The Cedar Waxwing, Goldfinch and Purple Finch are more than normally abundant this season, while records for the Red-headed Woodpecker, White-throated Sparrow, Marsh Hawk, Prairie Horned Lark, Bluejay, Towhee, and some others, indicate a scarcity of these species in relation to previous years.——Last November a Black Duck was found in a steel trap that had been set on a submerged willow near the river bank. Later in the winter, the Wood Duck, which is seldom seen on the rivers after early November, was the victim of another steel trap. It was on Jan. 4 that this latter species was caught at Looney's Island. Arrangements were made to band and release it at Big Ridge Park but the bird died before the wounded leg healed.——Mr. Stupka, Park Naturalist, reports that during the first week in March the Dove, Phoebe, Meadowlark and Mockingbird reappeared in the foothills of The Great Smoky Mountains. Altho these species wintered within a few miles of the mountains they were not present in the foothills during the winter months.——Migrating Grackles appeared March 10, but the usual large flocks have not been reported to-date.——The Purple Martin arrived at the colony box at Dr. Alexander's place on Feb. 27, one day earlier than last year's first arrival date.——The Chipping Sparrow was seen March 7, near Bearden, and again in the same field on the 13th. Two were reported at Solvay March 7, and 5 were listed on the Club's field trip to Caryville Lake on March 21.——The Brown Thrasher was reported the last of Feb. but did not become common until about March 18 or 20.——Other March arrivals were, Redwing Blackbird the 9th, Pine Warbler 18th, Pectoral Sandpiper 21st, Tree Swallow 21st, Bachman's Sparrow 23rd and Vesper Sparrow on the 24th.—W. M. WALKER, Knoxville.

NOTES FROM NORRIS LAKE: Repeated trips on Norris Lake during the course of the past few months have shown the presence of several hundred ducks during the winter months. Blacks and Mallards have been by far the commonest; some American Mergansers, Buffle-heads, Golden-eyes,

Pintails, Green-winged Teal, and Baldpates have been present, but their numbers have been small. Soon after the first of March, Ring-necked and Scaup began to supplement these, and are now by far the most abundant ducks present. An all-day canoe trip made in Big Valley of Norris Lake on March 21, 1937, with Jim Trent, Jr., of Knoxville, revealed the presence of over two thousand ducks in the area at that time. The day's list included: Horned Grebe, 15; Double-crested Cormorant, 5; Great Blue Heron, 1; Canada Goose, 22; Lesser Snow Goose, 1; Mallard, 75; Black, 125; Gadwall, 12; Baldpate, 150; Pintail, 60; Green-winged Teal, 5; Shoveller, 4; Readhead, 10; Ring-necked, 1000; Lesser Scaup, 500; American Merganser, 13; Bald Eagle, 1; Herring Gull, 2; Ring-billed Gull, 12; Coot, 80.——In the area which was formerly known as Poor Land Valley before its innundation by Norris Lake, Bald Eagles have been repeatedly found this winter. Three were seen at one time on March 14th.——A Duck Hawk was seen on the Lake on January 19th of this year—my first winter record.——To date (March 26th) the passerine movement has been quite regular. The Bachman's Sparrow was heard at sundown March 22nd near my home, and has been singing regularly since that time.—GEORGE FOSTER, Norris, Tenn.

TREE SPARROWS AT CLARKSVILLE: These neat visitors were discovered by us soon after our Mid-winter Census and have been observed, off and on, until today, March 17. The flock under observation—around fifty birds, usually in company with Juncos—has been fairly close to town and the birds have even come to our feeding stations, especially during the ice storm of January 23. The flock has changed its location but little and has been stable at its present site since early February.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, SR., Clarksville.

PIPITS NEAR SPRINGFIELD: A flock of about twenty American Pipits were seen at the State Fish Hatchery near Springfield, Tennessee, on November twenty-fifth. They were walking around the edges of the ponds, flitting their tails and frequently taking short flights. Two Wilson's Snipe were also seen at the waters edge. Pipits are very rarely recorded in Middle Tennessee; a list of previous records was published in *The Migrant* for March 1935.—M. LEO RIPPY, JR., Nashville.

The hawk and owl protective division of the National Asociation of Audubon Societies is anxious to have bands placed on as many of these birds as possible in order to trace their wanderings and age. Mrs. F. C. Laskey (Graybar Lane, Nashville) will supply bands to those who can apply them.

T. O. S. CHAPTER MEETING DATES: The NASHVILLE Chapter meets on Monday evening; March 22, April 5, 19, May 3, 17, and 31, at 7:30 p.m., at Peabody College. The Spring Field Day and election is set for Sunday, May 9, and members from other chapters are urged to be present.——KNOXVILLE Chapter meets on Wednesday evenings, April 7, May 5, June 2, Sept. 1, etc., at Flowercraft Shop. Field trips will be taken on March 21, April 4, April 25 (or May 2) Spring Census at the Ijams farm, May 16, June 20, Sept. 19, etc.——The MEMPHIS Chapter meets on Monday evenings at the Memphis Museum, on March 29, April 5, 19, May 3, 17, 31, and June 7; a Spring Field Day will be taken on a Sunday in early May.——The names of local secretarys were published in our last issue.

THE MIGRANT

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"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough, it is not necessary to go beyond it."

EDITORIAL CHAT

A Department of Conservation has been created by our newly elected Governor Browning and Mr. Sam F. Brewster was appointed on Feb. 27 to head it as Commissioner. The new Department will embrace the bureaus of the State Geologist, that of the State Forester, the Department of Game and Fish Conservation, and the development of our new system of State parks.. The last mentioned activity will be looked after personally by Mr. Brewster, he having been recently connected with the T. V. A. doing this type of work. The State Game and Fish Commission, of five, has been dropped in favor of the new set-up. Mr. Howell Buntin, who succeeded Mr. Damon Headden as State Game Warden last fall, is administering that department. Messrs. Walter F. Pond and J. O. Hazard, the two very capable specialists who have been heading the divisions of Geology and Forestry, will doubtless continue in their respective capacities. The new Commissioner has a splendid opportunity to develop a worthwhile chain of State parks and to cultivate a real appreciation among our citizens for this type of out-of-door recreation.

In behalf of the birds, we express appreciation of the thoughtfulness of the late Mrs. Nancy Boyd Miller, formerly of Tennessee, who died at Washington, D. C., on Sept. 29, 1935, in her 88th year. Mrs. Miller left a small legacy to the Tennessee Audubon Society for its uses and purposes. In conjunction with the T. O. S., the funds will be expended over a period of years to advance the work of bird study and conservation.

Mrs. Olah Pruette, of Moscow, Fayette Co., Tenn., succeeded Miss Sallie Walker as custodian of the State Museum of Natural History at Nashville.

It has often been demonstrated that the abundance of our summer birds may be greatly increased by catering to their needs. Clean out the old nesting boxes and put up new ones, plant shrubbery and vines, and finally, eliminate cats, the most destructive enemy of bird life.

The Editor's 13 year old banded Cardinal has not been seen about the premises since Nov. 20 and is believed to have died shortly after. He was the oldest known small wild bird. A young male has taken his place.

Record the spring arrivals from the south and the departure of our winter visitors. Refer to migration tables in *The Migrant* of March 1936.

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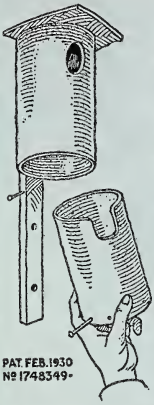

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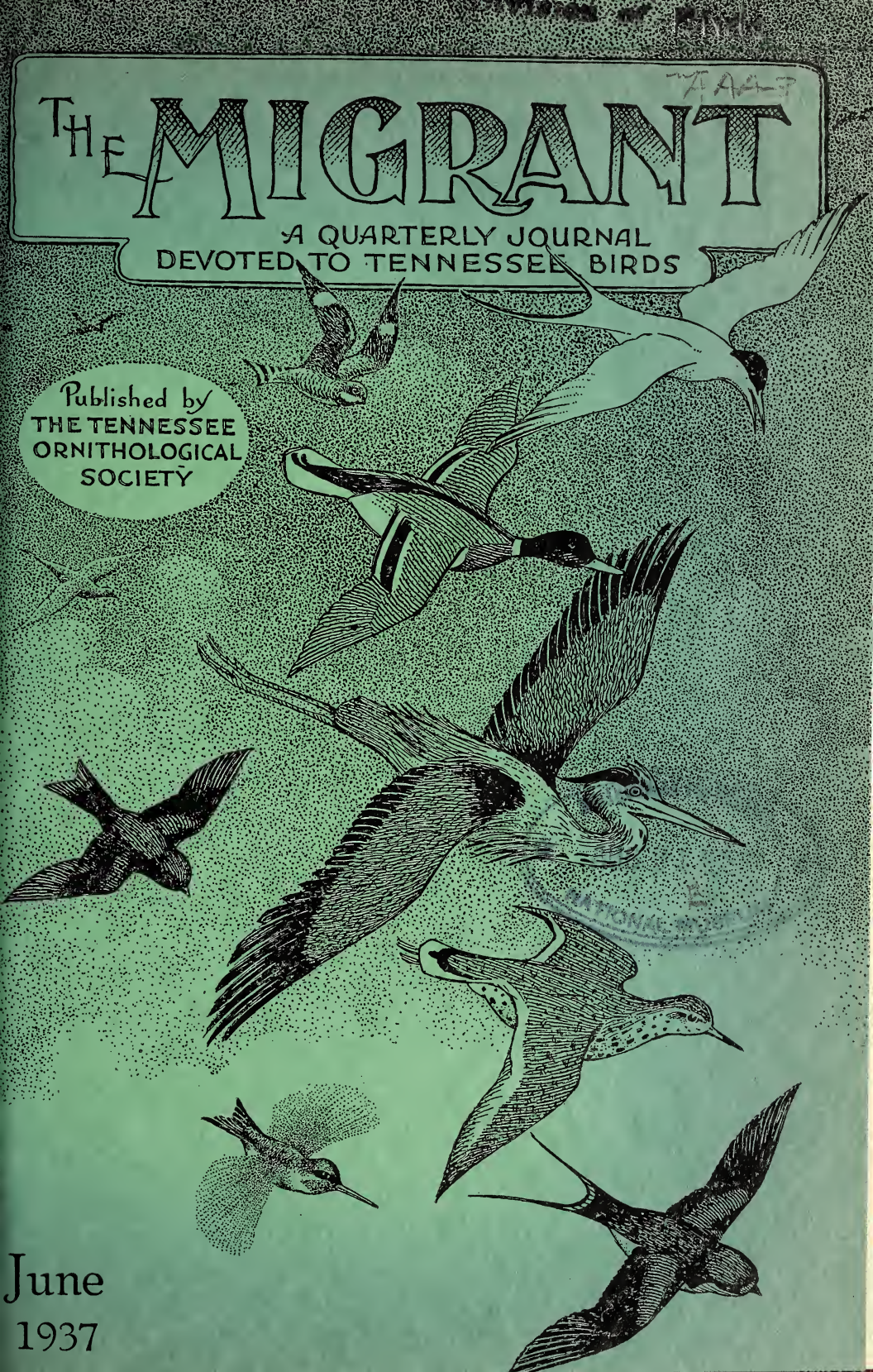

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THE MIGRANT

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A MAY DAY WITH THE MARSH BIRDS

By Dan R. Gray, Sr.

With few places left in Tennessee suitable for the nesting of marsh birds, the following notes from Hoover and Mason Lake and its marshy borders, should be of interest. This sixty-acre permanent lake was built as a reservoir for the use of the H. and M. Phosphate Co. and lies about 2 miles north of Mt. Pleasant. It is fringed with willows and in places there are areas covered thickly with cat-tails growing about the normal margin.

On May 23, the writer was joined by Mr. A. F. Ganier of Nashville and with the aid of a boat and hip boots we made a careful census of the lake to find what water birds were present and the nests of as many of them as possible. Our particular objective was to find a nest of the Coot since a parent bird with young had been reported to us last year by an acquaintance who was out fishing. Although we flushed a pair of these birds during the day there was no nest and we concluded that we were too early or that the Coots we saw were transients.

Pushing out from the boat house, we crossed the lake and paddled along through the cat-tails to where the water got shallow enough to wade. Almost immediately a nest of the Redwing Blackbird was found in a green weed and shortly after, several others were found, similarly located. The lake was about two feet higher than normal and the water had flooded the adjacent weed and sedge field making good cover for the birds. Presently a call from my companion brought me over to see a nest of the King Rail containing nine nearly fresh eggs. It was built among the weeds in the overflowed field and was very open in its situation, standing in ten inches of water. The nest was entirely of dead weed stalks and stood eight inches above the water. One of the eggs was found cracked so was removed. Being a good subject for a photograph, a picture was taken and meanwhile the Rail returned and *clacked* at us from a short distance.

Separating again we waded on and shortly after the writer flushed a Coot and later another, believed to be its mate. Then another enthusiastic call brought me over to see a handsome new bird which I had not seen before in life—a Purple Gallinule. The bird had flown up from the water into a willow so we waded over together to get a closer view. We approached to within twenty feet and through the willow leaves could easily inspect his purple and green plumage with snow-white undertail coverts, carmine bill and long yellow legs. No nest was found nor during the day so we supposed no mate had come to join him. While searching for its nest however, another nest was found by the writer in a small willow and which contained five fresh bluish-white eggs. It was a platform of willow twigs two feet above the knee deep water and proved to be that of a Least Bittern. Later in the

day we flushed several of these birds near the shore. The nest was duly photographed and we waded on, soon flushing a Solitary Sandpiper on the bank. We then took to the boat and paddled through deeper water among the willows and cat-tails. Here we examined at least twenty nests of the Redwing Blackbird each containing three or four blue eggs marked with curious black dots, lines and scrawls. Most of them were built in willows from one to three feet above the water. We flushed a Blue-wing Teal along the way and thought likely it had a mate sitting on some well hidden nest out in the grassy fields adjacent.

After adjourning for lunch we returned and again taking to the boat, paddled through a large expanse of cat-tails on the side opposite the one already searched. Due to high water and retarded growth the cover was not as yet thick enough for nests of Coot and perhaps other birds. About this time we were attracted by some birds several hundred feet above us in the air which at first glance we took to be Nighthawks. They were chasing insects after the manner of that species yet they appeared too black and they lacked the white wing patch. Soon we heard their call, *kek, kek,* and knew then they were Black Terns. A little later they came down to the lake level and there skimmed over the water in their usual way, flying quite close to us and one alit on a dead snag to rest. We then returned to the opposite shore to complete our search there. One of the King Rails ran along ahead of us through a bare field for quite a distance and at a small pool we found one each of the Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers. Green Herons were noted in the willows and two more Least Bitterns were flushed. A small bird sneaking along through the flooded sedge field was followed up and found to be a Prairie Marsh Wren; we watched it leisurely and had good views. About this time we saw a bird running ahead in the shallow water that resembled a month old black chicken and on closer view it proved to be a Sora Rail. We trailed along, getting closer and closer for it was loath to fly. It finally allowed us to watch it from a distance of ten feet, nervously twitching its tail or resuming its search for food but keeping a watchful eye on us all the time.

Summing up, we found we had listed twelve species of water birds, as follows: Green Heron 8, Least Bittern 3 (and nest), Blue-wing Teal 1, King Rail 2 (and nest), Sora Rail 1, Purple Gallinule 1, Coot 2, Spotted Sandpiper 1, Solitary Sandpiper 1, Black Tern 7, Kingfisher 2 and Prairie Marsh Wren 1.

MT. PLEASANT, TENN., June, 1937.

Among our birds we find good illustrations of varied temperament. Contrast the docile, placid Mourning Dove with the wary, cruel Cooper's Hawk; the staid and plaintiff Wood Pewee with the noisy, garrulous Blue Jay; the "sit-down" tactics of the Bluebird with the "move-along" habits of the Vireos, and the fidgetty, energetic Carolina Wren with the listless, languid Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

WATER BIRDS ON A TEMPORARY LAKE

By Alfred Clebsch, Sr.

On a farm situated in a stretch of rolling country in the NE corner of Montgomery County the excessive rains of January 1937 had formed a considerable lake where in ordinary times a small stock pond takes care of the surface drainage. Reports came early in April that ducks had been seen there from "Hallum's Lane", the road that passes nearby, and on the 8th of April, a cold and windy day, Dr. Chas. F. Pickering and the writer went to investigate. Although high-water marks on a tobacco barn showed that the water had fallen five feet from the highest level, it still covered more than fifty acres of farm land. Reaching into wooded stretches and fields of cornstalks and tall grasses the site was an inviting loitering place for waterfowl and shore birds.

In our circuit we flushed, one by one, from the bordering fields, eleven Wilson's Snipe. With a disconcerted cry they went into a short zig-zag flight and soon resumed their search for food. Coming to a mud-flat left by the receding water we saw a flock of twenty Lesser Yellowlegs, a picture of quiet and grace. From near them the diffident Killdeer flew off in alarm, but the Yellowlegs and one Pectoral Sandpiper in their group waited for our closer approach until they raised their wings and after a few beats glided smoothly towards a brushy slough. We were following them up when suddenly the rich musical whistle of the Greater Yellowlegs rang out over their smaller voices. By careful stalking we caught sight of two of these splendid shore birds.

Ducks had been noticed from the first but had drifted to the opposite shore where trees stood in the water. On our way around to it a Sora Rail played hide and seek with us in a weed-grown sink-hole formation till he was made to fly and thus inform us whose call we had heard. Among the willows we counted eighteen Coots and standing on a branch a Green Heron seemed to ponder if this was the right place for his summer residence.

Small flights of ducks became frequent. Either they were coming in from feeding or the stiffening wind invited them to exercise. A Gadwall lit close by and two Red-breastedMergansers went over; Blue-winged Teal and Baldpate, six of each, bored their air-way toward the open water, where a fine group of thirty (Greater) Scaup was already swimming, glistening in black and white.

Making the turn at the far end of the lake we found three Solitary Sandpipers. Our list seemed full and the afternoon well spent when before our eyes a Common Loon rose to the surface out of the water's depth. Amidst the ducks and Coots he appeared like a battleship surrounded by small craft. He was a fine male, glossy dark sprinkled with white.

By now the wind was whipping the water and with hands numb and eyes watering, we were ready to leave this unusual array of water birds. We counted it a rare treat however for in this section where no large permanent lakes exist, such opportunities are but rarely afforded.

Clarksville, Tenn., May, 1937.

SUMMER BIRDS OF PICKETT FOREST

By Albert F. Ganier

The birds of an area that has always been a wilderness, presents some interesting contrasts when compared with areas that have been settled up by man thru the years. It was partly this that caused the 11,500 acre Pickett Forest* to be chosen for study by the 1937 "expedition" of the T. O. S. during the week of June 14-20. For the purpose of making as careful a census as possible of the breeding birds of the area, this group of fourteen** was afield practically all of the time each day and explored the various types of habitats to be found.

The Forest occupies all of the eastern portion of Pickett County, lies against the Kentucky line, and is on the north end of the Cumberland Plateau. This and adjacent areas, covering some 400 square miles, have been marked on maps until recent years as "The Wilderness" because of the fact that its rough topography was covered by an almost unbroken forest. Between ten and three yers ago, logging railways were pushed into this section and the best timber removed, following which the tract was given by the owners to the State. The trees are chiefly hardwood but there is also a good deal of pine. The latter is mostly the scrub or Jersey pine but there is also a good deal of short-leaf pine and some of the tall stately white pines. Hemlock is to be found along the streams and under the cliffs. Mountain laurel and rhododendron (white) are well distributed. Berries of many sorts are found in abundance and with other natural foods can support a large quota of wild life. Numerous streams cut deep gorges thru the Forest area and in places there occur high cliffs of sandstone in the form of escarpments. Most pronounced of these are those along Rock Creek, Big Laurel and about the headwaters of Wolf River where cliffs two hundred feet sheer become truly spectacular. These cliffs have in years gone by, been the nesting places of Golden Eagles, Ravens and Duck Hawks. The latter are still found and the eagles may be here too but the Raven is no longer to be found. Chimney Rock, rising more than 100 feet is one of the most remarkable formations east of the Rockies.

The annotated list of 69 species follows. Gathering of the data for the compilation of this list represents the work of all members of our party and the writer is especially indebted to Mr. Alfred Clebsch Sr. for compiling daily the composite listings of the various observers. While the list is reasonably complete yet, with further field work the following species, sought but not found, would probably have been added; Black Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Golden Eagle, Barred Owl, Black-billed Cuckoo, Acadian Flycatcher, Cowbird, Redstart, the Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Cerulean, Yellow and Parula Warblers. Species seen in as many as twenty localities are termed "fairly common" or "common."

Black-Crowned Night Heron. *Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli.* One observed on the lake, June 15, by Mengel; an unexpected find.

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*For location of Pickett Forest, see map in last issue (March) of "The Migrant."

**The party consisted of Alfred Clebsch, Sr., Alfred Clebsch Jr., Dr. Cynthia C. Counce, Howard Counce, George Davis, A. F. Ganier, Robt. Mengel, Miss Mabel Slack, and Miss Emilie Yunker, for entire week. For part time, were M. S. Carter, Wm. Hay, Miss Mary Lee, G. R. Mayfield and F. A. Pattie Jr.

TURKEY VULTURE. *Cathartes aura septentrionalis.* Three or four seen each day, most often about the cliffs in which they doubtless nest.

COOPERS HAWK. *Accipiter cooperi.* One only was observed, however it is probable that they occur regularly and in some numbers.

EASTERN RED-TAILED HAWK. *Buteo b. borealis.* Ten seen at five points chiefly on the west side of the forest.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK. *Buteo p. platypterus.* One was seen on July 5, at Chimney Rock. It should be found regularly in this area.

DUCK HAWK. *Falco perigrinus anatum.* Six of these falcons were seen in four locations, viz, a pair a mile south of Rock House fire tower where an eyrie was found in the face of The Rock Island, a 150 foot sheer cliff above Laurel Fork; two soaring over the lake and probably from the Wolf River cliffs; one in the Rock Creek canyon near the Kentucky line, and one over the valley east of Chimney Rock. This general area is splendidly suited for these rare birds and doubtless other pairs could be located. (Fifteen miles south of the Forest and two miles south of Jamestown, in the face of a high cliff above Rockcastle Cove, the writer found an occupied eyrie of these falcons on May 29, 1927. An unsuccessful attempt to reach the nesting ledge was made with ropes and tackle, as the birds flew about protesting vociferously.)

EASTERN SPARROW HAWK. *Falco s. sparverius.* Sixteen were observed, usually where dead trees stood in clearings. Young of the year were abroad.

EASTERN RUFFED GROUSE. *Bonasa u. umbellus.* Not observed by our party but according to workers in the Forest it is often seen crossing or dusting itself in the roads and trails. Mr. Holt, Park Engineer, described a nest with five eggs found in 1936 on the ridge near the lodge.

WILD TURKEY. *Meleagris gallopavo silvestris.* Practically all gone but reliably reported as being occasionally shot.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK. *Philohela minor.* The fresh tracks of one were found in marshy ground by a small mill-pond on Sampsons Hammer road on the west side of the forest. Plaster casts were made of these tracks for reference.

EASTERN MOURNING DOVE. *Zenaidura m. macroura.* A total of 13 were noted tho there is practically no cleared ground in the Forest to attract them.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. *Coccyzus a. americanus.* Seven noted during the week.

GREAT-HORNED OWL. *Bubo v. virginianus.* One heard calling on Sampson's Hammer road and evidence of others was found under some of the cliffs.

EASTERN WHIPPOORWILL. *Antrostomus v. vociferus.* Fairly common, judging by its calls which were heard at dusk and dawn in every section.

EASTERN NIGHTHAWK. *Chordeiles m. minor.* Three only were recorded.

CHIMNEY SWIFT. *Chactura pelagica.* Fairly common, in groups of 3 or 4. Few chimneys being available, some may still nest here in hollow trees.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD. *Archilochus colubris.* Nine were recorded. A nest was being built 25 feet up in a pine near the lodge.

EASTERN BELTED KINGFISHER. *Megaceryle a. alcyon.* A pair were seen on the lake where they add a picturesque touch of life to the scenery.

NORTHERN FLICKER. *Colaptes auratus luteus.* Fairly common everywhere.

SOUTHERN PILEATED WOODPECKER. *Ceophloeus p. pileatus.* Four only were recorded, therefore found less common than was expected.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER. *Centurus carolinus.* Only two of this species were seen; it was unexpectedly scarce.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus.* Fourteen were seen.

EASTERN HAIRY WOODPECKER. *Dryobates v. villosus.* Nine were recorded.

NORTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER. *Dryobates p. pubescens.* Apparently rather scarce, since only five were listed.

RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER. *Dryobates borealis.* This woodpecker of the pine woods, rare as far north as Tennessee, was found at three points in pine groves. There were several birds in each group and they usually made their presence known by their chattering "conversation." One bird was also seen in the pine grove at York Institute two miles north of Jamestown. On previous trips the writer has carefully searched for them in the Jamestown area but without success.

EASTERN KINGBIRD. *Tyrannus tyrannus.* Two were seen in the Forest and one just outside. The environment is not such as they are partial to.

NORTHERN CRESTED FLYCATCHER. *Myiarchus crinitus boreus.* Fairly common and generally distributed thruout the area.

EASTERN PHOEBE. *Sayornis phoebe.* Abundant; the rock overhangs over the streams and cliffs elsewhere were the sites of many nests examined.

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE. *Myiochanes virens.* Common and much in evidence.

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW. *Stelgidopteryx ruficolis serripennis.* A group of six were nesting in pot-holes of a cliff above the lake.

PURPLE MARTIN. *Progne s. subis.* Five observed flying over. It nests in boxes outside the Forest provided by the mountain people.

NORTHERN BLUE JAY. *Cyanocitta c. cristata.* Fairly common.

CAROLINA CHICKADEE. *Penthestes c. carolinensis.* Fairly common.

TUFTED TITMOUSE. *Baeolophus bicolor.* A fairly common species.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. *Sitta c. carolinensis.* Fairly common.

BEWICKS WREN. *Thryomanes b. bewicki.* Fairly common, nest and 6 fresh eggs in woodpile on 6/16 also one with 5 young in a new cabin. It was found in the wooded areas as often as the Carolina.

CAROLINA WREN. *Thryothorus l. ludovicianus.* Fairly common; one nest.

CATBIRD. *Dumetella carolinensis.* Fairly common; several nests found.

BROWN THRASHER. *Toxostoma rufum.* Fairly common thruout these woodlands and in full song which seemed mellower here than elsewhere.

EASTERN ROBIN. *Turdus m. migratorius.* Four had established themselves on the lodge grounds but apparently not elsewhere. One nest, in a pine.

WOOD THRUSH. *Hylocichla mustelina.* Common and in ideal surroundings.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD. *Sialia s. sialis.* Common and generally distributed.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. *Polioptila c. caerulea.* Only two were seen.

CEDAR WAXWING. *Bombycilla cedrorum.* Twelve noted, including a flock or 8 on Rock Creek. A pair were building a nest in a black gum at the lodge.

WHITE-EYED VIREO. *Vireo g. griseus.* Fairly common, its song often heard.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO. *Vireo flavifrons.* Common, a bird of the treetops.

RED-EYED VIREO. *Vireo olivaceus.* Common. Two nests contained young.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER. *Mniotilta varia.* Fairly common.

points, viz, in hardwoods at Chimney Rock, in a pine at the head of the lake,

and one on York Highway south of Pall Mall.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER. *Dendroica dominica* subsp. One only, in a pine.

NORTHERN PINE WARBLER. *Dendroica p. pinus.* Common wherever there were pines and much in evidence due to its frequent song.

NORTHERN PRAIRIE WARBLER. *Dendroica d. discolor.* We voted this the most abundant bird recorded, having recorded it 83 times on our lists. One nest with 3 fresh eggs and another with nearly fledged young.

OVENBIRD. *Seirus aurocapillus.* Seen or heard daily thruout the Forest.

LOUISIANA WATER THRUSH. *Seiurus motacilla.* Recorded on ten occasions.

KENTUCKY WARBLER. *Oporornis formosus.* Fairly common, in all areas.

MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT. *Geothlypis t. trichas.* Fairly common. A nest with 4 eggs just hatching was found June 17 near Rock Creek.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. *Icteria v. virens.* Common, almost abundant.

HOODED WARBLER. *Wilsonia citrina.* Common and generally distributed.

ENLISH SPARROW. *Passer d. domesticus.* Only 3 noted, these at the lodge.

SCARLET TANAGER. *Piranga erythromelas.* Common, especially on the ridges.

SUMMER TANAGER. *Piranga r. rubra.* Common, mostly found in the valleys.

CARDINAL. *Richmondena c. cardinalis.* Seventeen recorded and one nest.

INDIGO BUNTING. *Passerina cyanea.* Common and much in evidence.

EASTERN GOLDFINCH. *Spinus t. tristis.* Common, usually 2 or 3 together.

RED-EYED TOWHEE. *Pipilo e. erythropthalmus.* Common. One nest with eggs.

BACHMANS SPARROW. *Aimophila aesticalis bachmani.* Nine were recorded, in bits of open grassy woodland. Their pleasant song revealed their presence.

EASTERN CHIPPING SPARROW. *Spizella p. passerina.* A fairly common species.

EASTERN FIELD SPARROW. *Spizella p. pusilla.* Fairly common.

Supplementing the above list of birds of Pickett Forest proper, the following notes on birds observed about Jamestown (15 miles south) and in Rockcastle, Buffalo and Gwinn Coves a few miles south of Jamestown, and elsewhere in this region, may be of interest. These notes were chiefly gathered on six prvious trips, including a week spent in this area, from May 27 to June 1, 1927.

A pair of GOLDEN EAGLES were observed at close range in Buffalo Cove on May 31, 1927, by G. R. Mayfield and the writer, and three others were seen, also at close range, in Gwinn Cove on May 31, 1930, by H. C. Monk and the writer. Both of these dates evidenced nesting nearby but on these and two subsequent trips I found only an old nest. In this nest, on March 25, 1928, two small young of the GREAT HORNED OWL were found. GRACKLES are not as yet regular summer residents on the Cumberland Plateau but several pair have established themselves in the village of Jamstown; they are probably the eastern form. A CHUCK-WILLS-WIDOW was recorded in the Wolf River valley at Pall Mall, on the evening of June 14, while from the high plateau about the Whip-poor-wills were calling in numbers. Four miles north of Byrdstown, a brood of newly fledged PRAIRIE HORNED LARKS were found on June 14 and on July 5 an adult bird was seen two miles south of this locality. In the long-settled flat areas about Jamestown, several species have been recorded that were not on our list of birds found in Pickett Forest. These were Kildeer, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Grackle, Starling, Grasshopper Sparrow, Yellow and Blue-winged Warblers.

NASHVILLE, TENN.

NOTES ON THE WATER BIRDS OF NORRIS LAKE

By George Foster, Jr.

In his article on the waterbirds of East Tennessee in the *Migrant* for June, 1935, Mr. James Trent, Jr. stated: "It is hoped that this list will serve to compare the abundance of waterbirds in East Tennessee before and after the completion of Norris Dam and the establishing of the immense lake above it, along the Clinch River. . . ."

Norris Lake has apparently had a very decided effect on the relative abundance of many waterbirds in this section. Extending seventy-two miles up the Powell River (a tributary of the Clinch), and up the valleys of a number of smaller streams, Norris Lake has a shoreline of over seven hundred miles, and when full covers thirty-four thousand acres. Norris Dam is essentially a storage dam, releasing the spring floods in late summer to maintain a uniform flow of water in the Tennessee River. Thus it is that during the course of a year's time the level of the Lake fluctuates about sixty feet. This, of course, changes feeding conditions almost from day to day, and virtually eliminates the nesting of many water birds around its margins. It is of interest here to speculate upon the feeding possibilities of the years to come, for a large portion of the marginal vegetation innundated last summer failed to come back in the fall to serve as potential bird food. Whether this has an effect on the winter abundance of waterfowl remains to be seen. Two much smaller permanent-level lakes adjoining Norris Lake have been formed, and they, Caryville and Big Ridge Lakes, have both yielded some interesting records.

It suffices to say that almost without exception every duck mentioned in Mr. Trent's paper has become more common. Notable examples of this are found in these cases:

Gadwall (one record quoted by Trent). Has been found quite regularly but in limited numbers, from November 1 until April 10.

Baldpate (listed as a very rare transient). Far from that now; 150 were seen on March 21, 1937.

Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal. Neither are rare now. The Green-winged Teal wintered here in small numbers, and the Blue-wing is an abundant late transient in spring.

Bufflehead. First recorded for Norris Lake on November 27, 1936, when five were seen. Seen frequently thereafter.

Ruddy Duck. Fairly common fall transient between November 1 and 27. Two April records, April 10 and 13.

American Merganser. All of the Mergansers are commoner now than formerly. This species is a fairly common winter resident, (fifty seen on December 12, 1936).

These are but a few of the striking changes in distribution. The American Pintail, listed as very rare, has been recorded by the writer on five occasions during the past winter. The dates ranged from November 1 to March 21, and the numbers from one to sixty. Redhead, Ring-necked, Canvas-back, and Scaup have been seen in numbers which totaled fifteen hundred birds in a day. The Redhead and Canvas-back are still comparatively rare, however. None of the above "divers" wintered here in numbers, the Black Duck and the

Mallard being our common winter ducks. Mixed flocks of the latter two species totaling six hundred birds wintered in the Big Valley area of the Lake this past season.

The Horned Grebe has presented one of the biggest surprises of the past season. On October 19, 1936, three of them were observed in winter plumage. On almost all of the twenty-odd trips on the Lake which followed during the course of the winter and spring a few of them were seen. On March 21, 1937, at least fifteen were seen, fully half of which were taking on breeding plumage with the lighter-colored "horns" then clearly visible. Lack of experience with a Graflex camera prevented a photo of a Horned Grebe in good breeding plumage at a distance of less than twelve feet.

Common Loons, also, have proven to be fairly common in migration, but did not winter. On May 16, 1937, ten of these big birds were seen at scattered intervals around the lake.

At Caryville Lake, particularly, have shorebirds been found in some numbers in late summer (see *Migrant* for December, 1936, page 102 for note on Baird's Sandpiper). The Pectoral Sandpiper and the Bonaparte's Gull, both listed by Mr. Trent on his hypothetical list, have been found in spring and fall migration. The Bonaparte's Gull was first seen on April 10, 1936, was recorded again on December 5, 1936, and on April 11, 1937, when a total of eight birds was observed. These birds were still present on May 16, 1937.

It will be noted that few definite dates have been quoted, but rather a very general picture of a few of the changes has been outlined. It has been the writer's good fortune to cover some twenty-five hundred miles on Norris Lake in the past year, and from this experience he has an opportunity to watch the gradual transition which appears to be taking place in waterfowl abundance in East Tennessee. With Norris Lake, the first TVA lake in East Tennessee, having so great an effect on bird life it will be interesting to watch the inevitable changes which will take place when the Tennessee River becomes a continuous series of almost permanent level lakes from Knoxville to Paducah.

The writer wishes to acknowledge with thanks, the co-operation and assistance received from Mr. L. B. Kalter, Mr. James Trent Jr., and Mr. George Foster, Sr., with one or more of whom he has made each of his trips on the Lake.

NORRIS, TENN., May, 1937.

BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR 1936: Papers and notes on Tennessee birds which have appeared in other journals during the past calendar year are briefly listed as follows:

In *The Auk:* July, Vol. 53, 337-8, "A Winter Food Supply for the Crow" by C. Crook; October, 482, "Injury Feigning of Bob White and Kentucky Warbler" by A. R. Laskey. In *The Wilson Bulletin:* December, Vol. 48, 241-255, "Fall and Winter Behavior of Mockingbirds" (a study of selection and defense of territory by color banded birds near Nashville) by A. R. Laskey. In *Bird Banding:* October, Vol. 7, 171-172, "Indigo Bunting Returns—1 and Returns—2" and Maryland Yellowthroat Age Records" by A. R. Laskey. In *Bird Banding News:* June, Vol. 8, p. 9, "Recoveries of Bronzed Grackles,

Robins, and American Egrets" by B. B. Coffey; September 12, "Summary of Five Years of Bird Banding" by A. R. Laskey; December, 5-6, "Banding in the Mid-South" by B. B. Coffey. In *Journal, Tennessee Academy of Science:* April, Vol. II, 95-97, "A Midwinter Bird Census of the Montgomery Bell Project" (census made at request of Atlanta Office of National Park Service. On January 5, five T. O. S. members listed 40 species), by Dr. J. M. Shaver; October, 241-250, "Waterfowl of Radnor Lake near Nashville, Tenn." (A report on birds observed in the years of 1933 to 1936 inclusive) by G. B. Woodring. In *Memoirs of The Boston Society of Natural History*, for April, 1936, Vol. 9, No. 2, pp 169-391, "The American Woodcock," monograph, by Olin S. Pettingill Jr., (the section giving status and data on this species for Tennessee, pp 243-245, contributed by A. F. Ganier).

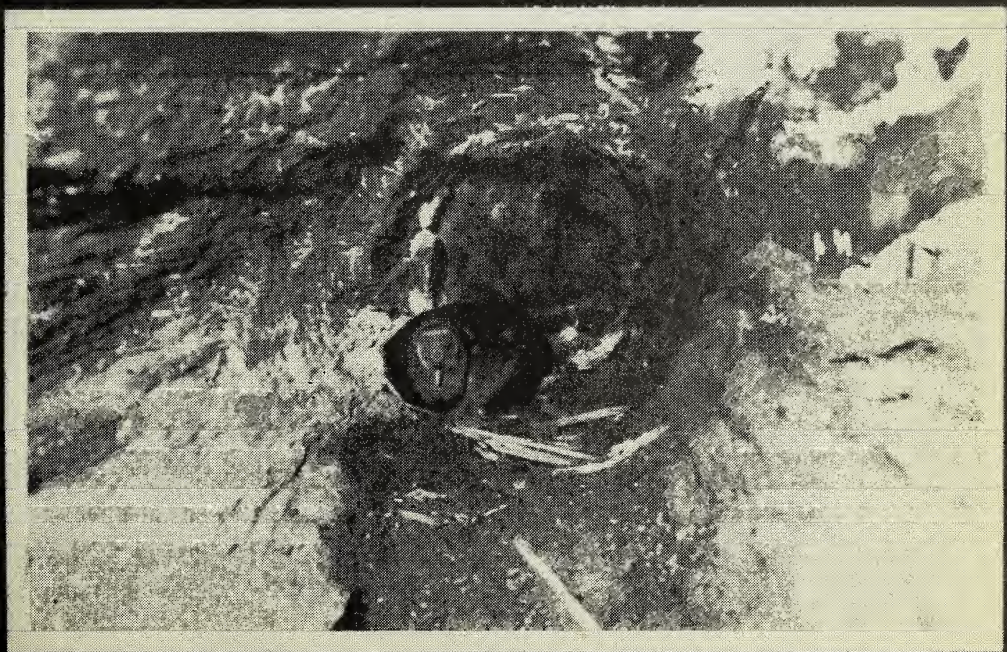
BUILDING LAKES IN TENNESSEE: In the early stages of the national administration a feverish program of selection, elimination, and experimentation was adopted and, so far as wild life is concerned, it was mostly elimination. The unemployment situation was acute and the problem was not a matter of money, but to find something for idle hands to do. When a reclamation bureaucrat saw a lake or marsh, his eyes flashed with the fervor of the zealot. Here was something that made no contribution to the welfare of man in the way of food or transportation. "Let us away with this mistake of nature," he cried. Forthwith he set the CCC boys to work, and, under an ill-advised program of sanitation, they destroyed many harbors of aquatic birds and plants, and did little harm to the mosquitos. Today this policy is being reversed. Funds have been allotted for the building of the lakes which were once marked for destruction. We have just read that the State Conservation Department, with the aid of WPA funds, plans to build 40 to 50 lakes in Tennessee, with the ultimate purpose of a lake in every county where suitable sites can be found. State WPA Administrator, Harry S. Berry, has announced that his bureau has $1,000,000 available for building lakes. This sum of money ought to pin many aquatic gems on the bosom of Tennessee.—R. A. WILSON, in *Fin, Fur and Feathers* Dept. of the Nashville Banner.

It is greatly to be regretted that the marsh drainage program has all but wiped out our marsh-bird population and it is to be hoped that several extensive marshes can soon be built with federal funds to bring about their restoration.—ED.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS: On the page opposite, at top, are shown nests of the King Rail and Least Bittern, described by Mr. Dan R. Gray in his article on the first page. At the bottom is a photo of a Black Vulture incubating its egg within a hollow log and photographed by Mr. F. S. Carpenter whose notes on the nest will be found in The Round Table. On the next page will be found Field Day group pictures taken in early May of our T. O. S. chapters at Nashville, Knoxville and Memphis. On the opposite page is a "snap" of 11 of our 14 members who attended the "field week" in Pickett Forest in June. (For names, see article on Birds of Pickett Forest.) In center of the page is an informal snap taken on Nashville Field Day as lunch was being served. Below are pictured Messrs. Dan R. Gray, H. P. Ijams and George Davis, well known to our readers. (Continued on page 35).

Nest of King Rail

Nest of Least Bittern

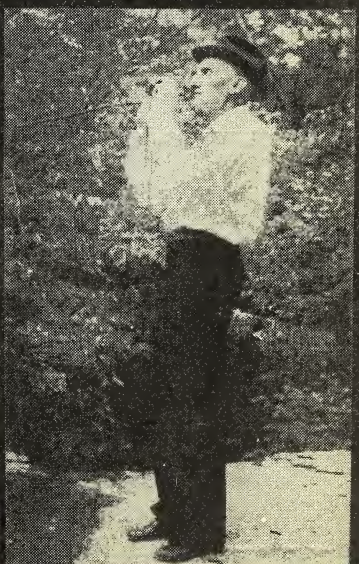


Black Vulture, incubating.

Knoxville

Pickett Forest.

Spring Field Day.



Chimney Ro

THE ROUND TABLE

GOLDEN EAGLE IN MISSISSIPPI: In February, 1937, a Golden Eagle and an immature Bald Eagle were brought to the Memphis Zoo by Mr. G. D. Perry of Hollywood, Miss., 30 miles southwest of Memphis. Mr. Perry writes that these birds were caught separately, two or three weeks apart, before Christmas of last year, in steel traps by two different negro employees. The trapping (for mink and raccoon) was done about three miles west of Hollywood (Tunica County) in what is called "Old River," over the levee. This was all the information Mr. Perry could supply. This our first record of the Golden Eagle for this area and, as far as the writer knows, the only published record for Mississippi.—BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis.

TWO SNOWY OWL RECORDS: In *The Migrant* for March, 1931, page 7, brief mention was made of the taking of two of these owls and to this I am able to add some further details. The first was killed 5 miles south of Paris, Tenn., on Dec. 21, 1930, by a farm youth who had found it sitting on the low branches of a large tree. It was brought to me and I now have it as a mounted specimen. It measured exactly five feet from tip to tip of wings. The breast feathers were pure white while those on the back are slightly speckled. The other, taken on Dec. 20, the same year, was received by the Taxidermy Shop of Tennessee at Memphis, it having been killed at Como, Miss., 40 miles south of Memphis. The Snowy Owl rarely comes as far south as the United States and records south of the Ohio River must be considered as accidental.—BUSTER THOMPSON, Paris, Tenn.

NOTE: Inspection of the weather records for 1930 shows that no unusually cold weather had prevailed in early December. Prior to the 20th, the lowest daily temperatures at Paris, beginning the 10th, were plus 42, 48, 31, 28, 33, 32, 20, 26, 30, 33, and 26. By odd co-incidence, the first (of four) authentic record of the Snowy Owl for Tennessee was of one taken about 10 miles northwest of Paris. The foot of this bird, regrettably killed on Feb. 3, 1918, was sent to the writer for vertification. December 1930, may be considered a Snowy Owl "invasion" of Tennessee for two more were killed in the State during that month. One taken Dec. 3 at Reelfoot Lake was mounted and is now in the State museum and the other, taken Dec. 31 near Johnson City, was mounted by a Knoxville taxidermist. No other records have come to my attention.—EDITOR.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS (Continued). Pictured opposite is the great Chimney Rock or "Bluebeard's Castle," on the west side of Pickett Forest at the Kentucky line. This is one of the most spectacular monoliths in the Eastern United States and we believe this to be the first published photograph of it. After a long trek thru the wilderness with three companions, the Editor got this unobstructed view from the top of a tall pine. As to its ornithological significance, well, let us suppose that in days gone by it was a favored lookout for Peregrines, Ravens and Golden Eagles.

NOTES BY MEMBERS OF THE CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER: A Lesser Snow Goose spent 3 days (March 28-30) on the farm of Mr. Paoli Meriwether in company with tame geese. Dr. Pickering took several pictures of this bird which had to be flushed to show itself in flight.——A male Red-legged Black Duck spent all winter on Dunbar's Cave lake with tame Mallards, remained after they had been put up early in April to protect the spawn of fish and was a little later himself led into captivity.——Chimney Swifts first arrived on March 22, 8 in number. A spring roost was observed April 9 and 10, 300/500 birds going in from 6:00 to 6:15 p.m. and the same again on May 2, a dark and rainy day.——A Prairie Horned Lark was seen on May 16, presumably nesting nearby.——Cliff Swallow: At the crossing of Cumberland River at Dover, Tenn., a strong colony (about 250 birds) was found nesting on May 16, under the separate span in the approach to the bridge. The nests can be seen from the low field underneath. The bridge itself held only a much smaller colony (about 30 birds). These two groups are taken to be off-shoots from the main colony at lock D, a short distance down-stream.——Purple Martin: First spring arrival March 11, 1:45 p.m. They seemed to enjoy a snow storm that came in the latter part of March as much as they do thunderstorms in summer.——Tufted Titmouse: Several pairs of adult birds were noticed feeding one another April 4 and 17; this is probably a courtship demonstration.——Catbird: An early arrival came to his old nest on April 8 but surrendered it later to a pair of Cardinals which remodeled it to fit their needs.——Red-eyed and White-eyed Vireos came April 17 and 18, ten days later than last year.——A Worm-eating Warbler was found at Neblett's Slough on April 18.——Wilson's and Canada Warblers, 7 and 5 respectively, were observed at various sites during week of May 16 to 23, feeding mostly high in trees, especially the "Black Cap" quite active. As in the fall these two species were found not far apart.—— Bronzed Grackles were observed nesting on May 16, in the top chords of the steel bridge across the Tennessee River west of Dover. The nests were built on the steel connecting plates and the Grackles flew up through the lattice to reach them. A rather hot site.——Some late or last records for winter visitants or spring transients are as follows: Winter Wren, April 14; Solitary Sandpiper, 3 on May 15 and 16; Bobolink, on May 15 a flock of 30 noted in a fresh cut alfalfa field; Purple Finch, one on May 7 was with a flock of Goldfinches; Savannah Sparrow a few as late as May 17, now in fine breeding plumage; White-crowned Sparrow, last record 4 on May 8; White-throated Sparrow, 1 on May 20; Swamp Sparrow until April 25 and Song Sparrow, abundant around March 18 in creek bottoms.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, SR., Clarksville, Tenn.

SPRING NOTES FROM CORINTH: My 1937 spring season has been particularly enjoyable. March 30 brought two rare and beautiful male Red-breasted Mergansers to Liddon's Lake. Ruby-crowned Kinglets sang on each of my early spring hikes; on April 16 one of these diminutive vagabonds poured out his brave little heart from the old pear tree that takes up all the space in my tiny backyard. Incidentally, this old tree planted 45 years ago, has harbored many a rare bird. Every now and then one shows up within its deep foliage that is not supposed to visit a town area so crowded.——Success crowned my ten years of searching for a Blue Grosbeak

on April 18; it was at Sugarnole Pond in Tuscumbia bottom. Elgin Wright and Johnny Johnsey witnessed the find. The Blues, two males, acted in every detail just as the Rose-breasted species does. Again on the 25th we found some 7 or 8 males and females feeding in tall willows in the same bottom but 2 miles upstream. Later visits to the area failed to reveal the birds. My second Worm-eating Warbler was found in the bottom at Whitmore Levee the same date, April 25.——At Liddon's Lake on May 6, I saw what looked like 3 slender black chickens, walking over the thick vegetation that covers a small pond that lies west of the main lake. The birds were uncanny, queer, and startled me. I knew they were not Coots. Then I remembered—of course they could be nothing else than Gallinules. A close-up view presently proved them to be the beautiful Purple species. I cannot describe them. You must look them up in your bird book, the one with colored pictures. And in the same spot with the gallinules I found my first Least Bittern, a female.——On May 9, Wright and I found our first Lark Sparrow. We were on our way at 5 A.M. toWaukomis Lake, when beside the road a strange bird sang as he sat atop a tall, slender white oak. Neither of us knew him. Presently he flew down into a patch of dead cotton stalks and began feeding and we were able to mark every detail of him at close view. Then back to the tree he went for another bit of song. Later our bird books confirmed our identification. He is a large beautiful sparrow with a song that ranks with the best. In some parts of the country he seems to be a common species but here he is a lovely rarity.——On May 9 also, in a thick swamp, we found our first Canada Warbler. Numbers of White-throated Sparrow were lingering on that late date. I have learned an important lesson this May: in this month the transients, many of them, are at their height; indeed May is a better month for them than April.——On May 15, at Willow Slough on the edge of Tuscumbia Bottom, between 5:30 and 6:00 in the evening, I found the following list in open fields and lush meadows, the entire area covering some 10 acres: male and female Bobolinks, Dickcissels, Indigo Buntings, Kingbirds, Swamp Sparrows, Field Sparrows, Grasshopper Sparrows, Doves, Cardinals, Redwings, Meadowlarks, Cuckoos, Acadian Flycatchers in the willows, Chat, Chimney Swifts and Purple Martins, all told 16 kinds. And I should also add the Barred Owls that called from the big bottom near by, and sweet clover and blooming alfalfa and hairy vetch and pasture thistle and knee-deep meadow grasses studded with yellow wildflowers—all with a frangrance that was good to inhale. The sunset hour in a deep meadow on a May day is an experience not to be forgot. But, after all, the break of day is the best time to go out for birds. This May 16, I was in the bottom at sun-up and found a veritable small flock of Bay-breasted Warblers, and Magnolias, and Chestnut-sided ones, not to mention half a dozen Cardinals. Gnats filled the woods and the birds were feasting. Hundreds of Cedar-Waxwings stuffed themselves. When I passed through the deep underbrush the gnats would fly out and they sounded like rain but they were not in the biting stage so did not annoy me.—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

LATE MIGRATION OF THE BROWN THRASHER: A single Brown Thrasher foraged in the yard at 1022 Eighteenth Avenue, South, and in the alley near this place late in the fall of 1936. He could be seen almost any

day until November 21. After this date, he was seen no more. He appeared strong and healthy, and when last seen flew away across the adjoining yards. A second Brown Thrasher was seen on Saturday, November 7, in a thicket on the Elmhill Road, four and one-half miles from Nashville.—JESSE M. SHAVER, George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee.

A COWBIRD'S ERROR: If a Cowbird, or any other bird for that matter, had a sense of humor, I suppose it would think that the laying of its eggs in the nest of another, usually smaller bird, was a great joke. On the contrary, the inevitable result of such a trick is usually disastrous to the rightful owner. However, I know of one instance where the joke was on the interloper. It is the usual habit of the Cowbird to locate new nests of other species and to deposit its first egg therein on the same day the first egg of the owner is laid. Sometimes two and even three more eggs are added by the miscreant on succeeding days, and there follows a corresponding curtailment of the eggs of the rightful owner. For example, I recently collected a set of only two Kentucky Warbler eggs from a nest which contained three of the Cowbird. None of my friends has ever found, nor can anyone recall having read of, the Cowbird making so gross a blunder as to deposit its eggs in an abandoned nest, yet such an instance was found near Nashville on May 9, 1937. Having noticed an old nest of the Red-eyed Vireo, built five feet up from the ground on the end of a hickory limb in a woodland, one of our party asked a companion to look into it. To his great surprise, the companion found two Cowbird eggs in the nest, both fresh. The nest had come through the winter and from its dilapidated appearance, it must have been a very bad winter. It was hung to the twig with the frailest of fibers and one wondered how it could have held the usurper. Here was one place where Cowbird eggs were in the right nest because their chances of hatching were as dark as the bird's feathers. The joke was on the Cowbird. The nest was in an enclosed and posted grounds and there is no probability that the eggs were placed there by human hand.—BURT L. MONROE, Louisville, Ky.

A BLUE-WINGED WARBLER NEST NEAR NASHVILLE: On May 9, 1937, while attending the Annual Spring Field Day of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, I had the great pleasure of being in the group which discovered the nest of the Blue-winged Warbler. We were on the Spain farm, 19 miles north of Nashville, in Robertson Co., and our party had been listing the birds up Sycamore Creek. At one place along the creek, we left the stream proper and crossed over to a sedge field about 1/3 of an acre in size. The field lay at the base of a slope covered with some timber. The thin sedge was intergrown with blackberry briars and at one end there was the remains of a log hut. I happened to be walking in advance of the rest of the party toward this hut and was anticipating the listing of the Blue-winged Warbler for our list, when I flushed one of the birds about 15 feet ahead. It feigned injury and I realized that we were near its nest. I did not move my position for fear I would lose the exact location and awaited the arrival of the rest of the group. A thorough search, supervised by Mr. Albert Ganier, revealed the nest which was placed between two briars and a small sedge clump, resting on the ground and extending five inches up to the rim. Externally, it was made of oak leaves; then bark strips and weeds, with a final lining of grasses. Two oak leaves arching over the top,

as is customary with the habit of this species, obscured the eggs from view. It contained five fresh eggs which were pure white in color, marked with dots of light brown chiefly about the larger end. Several photographs were made of the nest, during which time both parent birds came about and protested. Two other male birds were heard within a half mile of this nesting site.—BURT L. MONROE, Louisville, Ky.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER AT NASHVILLE: For ten years past no local record has been made of this rather rare transient. On May 7, the writer heard an unusual warbler call during the early morning in Mt. Olivet Cemetery. He had just noted a large group of Cape May Warblers, two Nashville Warblers, two Magnolia Warblers and a Canada Warbler and was looking for more species on this lucky day. The Black-throated Blue was singing a song quite similar to the one heard in the Great Smokies during the nesting season. At other times, this species has usually given only a *Zay, Zay, Zay* call immediately recognizable. The bird was followed for some time but he gave only the one song with but little variation. Most of my 22 previous records have been made in Shelby Park or on the Vanderbilt Campus and are as follows: 1916, April 21 (2), 28 (3), May 5 (1), 12 (1); 1917, May 4 (1), 5 (2), 6 (2), 7 (1), 9 (1), 14 (1); 1921, April 26 (1), 27 (1), 28 (1), May 1 (1), 12 (1);; 1923, May 5 (2), 6 (6), 12 (1), 16 (1); 1926, May 4 (1), 6 (1), and 7 (1).—G. R. MAYFIELD, Nashville.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER HABITS: On Sept. 6, 7 and 8, near Nashville, I had the opportunity to watch three of these birds and observe their habits. The first, noted at 3:30 p.m. on a warm day, was making long flights after insects from the dead top of a big oak. Mr. Ganier tells me that all of his birds have been found in similar locations. However, the individuals I located on the 7th and 8th were seen very early in the morning—between 6 and 7—and they were making their flights near the ground from the lower branches of large trees or the dead tops of small trees. The inference is, that in the cool of the morning the high-flying insects have not begun to move about and the Fycatchers must rely on perhaps less desirable sorts of the low-flying kinds. One of the birds, which was collected, was exceedingly fat.—JOHN B. CALHOUN, University of Virginia.

PHOTOGRAPHING A VULTURE: On May 15, a nest of the Black Vulture was found near Louisville in a large hollow beech log in a woodland. When I peered within, the old bird was found to be sitting on one egg which was deposited about 7 feet from the entrance. Instead of flushing, the bird continued to sit so I decided to take photographs of her and finally did so from a point not over 6 feet distant. Proper light was secured by the use of a photo-flash bulb. On June 19 I returned, hoping to find a young bird and to take a series of pictures of it. However the egg had been deserted meanwhile and was found to be addled without sign of embryo in it. It is probable that the egg was overdue to hatch when I found it on May 15 and perhaps the gentleness of the bird was due to its having continued to incubate for some time beyond the usual period which is said to be about 30 days.—FLOYD S. CARPENTER, Louisville, Ky.

NOTE: The excellent picture is reproduced on page 31.—EDITOR.

NOTES FROM WHEELER DAM: Herring Gulls, which came and went in large numbers last winter, with every rise of the Tennessee River over the freshly flooded lands, have been less common this season but more consistently present. Ducks also have been less common on Wheeler Lake, perhaps due to the increased depth of water; I understand however that they have been common at the shallow "Green Onion" inlet on Wilson Lake, 3 miles below Wheeler Dam. Hawks seem to be more common this winter than usual particularly Marsh Hawks and Sparrow Hawks. A Tree Sparrow, the identity of which I am reasonably sure, was noted during Christmas week here; an interesting record for this far south. About the same time, a flock of 20 Rusty Blackbirds, a Pine Warbler and a Fox Sparrow were listed. Brown Thrashers have been observed on two occasions. Shrikes are frequently noted along the roadsides. The Florence, Ala., paper told of an Eagle (probably the Bald) having been killed near Wheeler, the first week in December—JOHN BAMBERG, Guntersville Dam, Alabama.

NOTES FROM MURFREESBORO: An American Bittern was killed near here on Nov. 6. Two Double-crested Cormorants were on the mill pond in Stone's River at Walter Hill on Nov. 22; one of these was shot and found to contain 14 small fish. Eight Hooded Mergansers were seen on Nov. 28. Dr. Black gives Oct. 12 as the last date on which he saw Chimney Swifts roosting here.—H. O. TODD, Murfreesboro.

RED-BACKED SANDPIPER AT KNOXVILLE: On October 4, 1936, I took a company of six Boy Scouts to Lake Andrew Jackson, about fourteen miles from Knoxville, for a bird-study trip. Our activities centered mainly on following the shore of the lake in a search for possible shore birds. During the course of our activities we came upon a small sandpiper which, peculiarly enough, was so tame that, by a cautious approach, we were finally able to get within six feet of it. My first impression was the peculiar slightly curved, medium-length slender bill. We happened to have with us a copy of Birds of America, Vol. I, the plates of which we consulted on the spot and our only possible verdict was Red-backed Sandpiper *(Pelidna alpina sakhalina)*. It was in fall plumage of course but with ideal color plates, description and estimate of size, I felt no doubt as to the correctness of naming the bird as this species.—EARL O. HENRY, 401 Med. Arts Bldg., Knoxville.

NOTE: Dr. F. M. Chapman, in his description of this species, says it "may always be known by its slightly curved bill" and that "it is an unsuspicious, rather stupid, little Snipe, less active than most members of this family." Dr. Henry's record above is the first for Tennessee.—EDITOR.

AN OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER IN THE SMOKIES: The finding of one of these rare flycatchers always marks a red-letter day, particularly in spring when the bird may be suspected of being on its breeding ground. On May 16 one of them was observed in Cades Cove by the writer and other members of the Knoxville Chapter who had joined the field trip scheduled there for that day. The bird was atop a dead tree on Boring Ridge, about 1.5 miles southwest of Oliver's Lodge and at elevation 2200 feet s.l. Ten days later, hoping to find it still there and perhaps to establish a breeding record, W. M. Walker and Charles Baird returned to the site but were unable to find it. They concluded that most likely our bird was a transient.—H. P. IJAMS, Knoxville.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLERS have become common enough around my place this year to justify comment. During the last of April three pairs were building in bird boxes near the house. On May 2 (our annual spring census) 14 Prothonotary Warblers were listed. At the end of the first week in May two pairs were sitting on five eggs each; the other on four eggs. The latter nest was destroyed later. The others reared four young each. On June 4 one of these original pairs had rebuilt in the same box and had one egg. The other original pair had finished rebuilding nearby. Both birds carried nesting material which consisted of green moss, dried leaves and pine needles. First sets of eggs were five each; second sets were four each. Two infertile eggs were removed by the old birds before the young left the nest. None of the nests were closer than 500 feet to the Tennessee River which flows nearby. I have been surprised to note how high in the big trees these birds feed and sing at times, reminding one more of a Redstart than of a marsh-loving bird. During the past 20 years the Prothonotary Warbler has been a rare bird with us. Only one nest had been found and it was destroyed by high water. Last year a fisherman put up a crude bird box near his shack on the river bank. It was well above high water and two broods of Prothonotary Warblers were reared successfully, which I believe accounts for my success this year.—H. P. IJAMS, "Island Home," Knoxville.

THE SEASON AT KNOXVILLE: George Foster and the writer, at Norris and Knoxville respectively, have found the Golden-winged Warbler more frequently this year than in 1935 or 1936. We have three or four records each for this rare species. Also on April 26 the writer was at Andrew Jackson Lake from 6 A.M. until past noon, and while there found a total of five Blue-winged Warblers. Both the Golden-winged and Blue-winged were located by note and identification then confirmed by sight. Both species were found in cut-over timber near the lake shore where the second growth and young trees ranged from three to twelve feet in height. The birds were very active even for warblers, and seldom fed in foliage higher than twenty feet from the ground.——The usual flock of American Mergansers did not winter on Lake Andrew Jackson this winter. Except for a flock of five Mallards there was a very evident lack of ducks until about March 10. Since then, three Sandpipers, the Osprey, Coot, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, the American Bittern, and several species of ducks have been recorded. Four Blue-winged and three Green-winged Teal were present the middle of May but grazing cattle were rapidly destroying the high grasses around the shallow parts of the waters edge, thereby lessening the possibility for nesting sites.——Other interesting occurrences at the lake: A Duck Hawk was observed the morning of April 10. An American Bittern was seen on April 26 and another recorded on May 27; there were no other records between these two dates. A local taxidermist reported to Mr. Ijams that a Wood Ibis was shot at Cedar Bluff on April 16. The caretaker at Lake Andrew Jackson reported a bird of similar description as being at the lake a few days earlier; perhaps the same one.——A trip to Cade's Cove on May 31, yielded 64 species 51 of which were in the Cove. Six miles on foot along the C. C. C. fire roads yielded a nice list of warblers. Of these we recorded the Black-and-white 18, Blackburnian 1, Black-throated Green 30, Hooded 16, Kentucky 33, Maryland Yellowthroat 2, Palm 1,

Pine 17, Redstart 4, Yellow 3 and Prairie 8. We found young of the Black-and-white and judging from the actions and notes of a B.T.G., it was feeding young. The Palm Warbler was evidently a late migrant.——A rainy ten days at the beginning of warbler migration hindered the activities of our club members. A few of our "first dates" for migrants are late since the birds were common when first noted. The following are the Knoxville T. O. S. first dates for spring migrants: Purple Martin 2/27, Brown Thrasher 2/28, Chipping Sparrow 3/7, Pine Warbler 3/13, Tree Swallow 3/14; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 3/21, Rough-winged Swallow 3/21, Cowbird 3/21, La. Waterthrush 3/22, Vesper Sparrow 3/28, Barn Swallow 3/30, Black-and-white Warbler 3/31, Yellow Warbler 4/6, Chimney Swift and White-eyed Vireo 4/9, Wood Thrush 4/10, Ovenbird, Hooded Warbler, and Hummingbird 4/15, Redstart 4/17, Black-thr. Green Warbler, Green Heron, Whip-poor-will, Chuck-wills-widow, Prairie Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Chat, Crested Flycatcher, Nighthawk, Kingbird, Orchard Oriole, and Spotted Sandpiper 4/18, Catbird 4/20, Warbling Vireo 4/21, Red-eyed Vireo and Maryland Yellowthroat 4/24, Summer Tanager 4/24, Grasshopper Sparrow 4/26, Palm Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Yellow-throated (Sycamore) Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Wood Pewee, Scarlet Tanager and Solitary Sandpiper 4/26, Magnolia Warbler, American Bittern and Cliff Swallow 4/28, and on May 2 we recorded Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue-headed Vireo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Veery, Baltimore Oriole, Lincoln Sparrow, Bobolink, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Prothonotary, Canada, Blackpoll and Tennessee Warblers. The Wilson Warbler, our latest, was seen on May 15.—W. M. WALKER, Knoxville.

A WOODCOCK AT HIGH ALTITUDE IN GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK: On June 12, 1935, I flushed a Woodcock *(Philohela minor)* from a clump of trees on Heintooga Bald at an altitude of 5,150 feet, in the southeast corner of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Further observation revealed numerous holes made by this bird in the moist soil under the spruce. This "Bald" is entirely covered with grass, small shrubs, fallen deciduous trees and this colony of spruce. The entire region with the exception of the summit described above is surrounded by deciduous trees. This is my only record of the species in the Park, although I looked carefully on many field trips for the bird.—RAYMOND J. FLEETWOOD, (Former Naturalist Assistant, Great Smoky Mountains National Park) Paducah, Ky.

THE REELFOOT CRANETOWN attracts more and more ornithologists each season and justly so, for it exhibits the most interesting aggregation of nesting birds in the Central South, if not in the entire Interior. A letter from Dr. Chas. Kendeigh states that he and Dr. Victor Shelford took classes from the University of Illinois to Reelfoot on March 26-29. Eighty-eight species of birds were listed including 2 Yellow-crowned Night Herons on a large pond within the wet forest near the Hickman Gun Club. Dr. C. F. Pickering of Clarksville and Dr. H. S. Vaughn of Nashville both visited the site with friends during April for the purpose of making movies. Mr. Karl Maslowski and two fellow bird students from Cincinnati will visit Cranetown in June as will Prof. Rudolf Bennitt and others from the University of

Missouri in July. Still other visitors were reported.

Some Cormorants were shot from the nests in 1936 by fishermen who thought they were thus conserving game fish in the Lake. Upon a protest being made by officers of the T. O. S. to the Tenn. Dept. of Fish and Game, orders were issued by Director Buntin that no gunfire was to be allowed in these nesting colonies in future. During June, 1936, Mr. Floyd Carpenter of Louisville found a pile of heron bones under the "Little Cranetown" which is situated at the upper end of the lake just within the Kentucky line. Being outside of our state, the Editor presented the situation to the U. S. Biological Survey and their Mr. W. E. Crouch has sent him the report of Mr. Robt. C. Soaper, Game Management Agent of Henderson, Ky., dated May 31. The following quotations from Mr. Soaper's report are of interest.

"On May 26, I went to Reelfoot Lake to investigate conditions in the heronies there. I first visited what is known as "Cranetown," on the west side of the lake and here I estimated there were at least 2000 nests. Of these about 50 per cent were of American Egrets, 20 per cent Cormorants, 15 per cent Blue Herons, 10 per cent Anhingas and 5 per cent Black-crowned Night Herons. In the smaller heronry known as "Little Cranetown," located in Otter Basin a north arm of Reelfoot Lake that extends into Kentucky, I found 46 nests, 29 of these were of American Egrets, 16 were of Blue Herons and 1 of the Anhinga. Mr. Wm. Fraley and Mr. Dee Shaw both Tennessee Wardens, accompanied me on this investigation. We did not find a dead bird in either of the two rookeries. We made a check up on the fish that had been dropped by the birds while feeding their young. We identified one blue gill, one small cat fish and about thirty other fishes that were carp, skip jack and one or two drum. I spent one whole day talking to different guides and camp operators on different parts of the lake in regard to protection of these birds. I did not find any one that had ever known any herons or egrets to be shot on the lake or in these rookeries but I did find that in the summer of 1936, many Cormorants had been shot in 'Big Cranetown,' and supposedly been used for trot line bait. Many of the Cormorants I think were shot by parties who considered them very destructive to fish. . . . Through all the conversations with the guides and wardens on the lake I did not find anyone that seemed to hold the heron or egret accountable for any destruction of fish and I feel that these birds are getting good protection there but I did find one guide that said he had seen large droves of Cormorants in the fall that were very destructive to many varieties of fish. He said he had seen them come up with crappie in their bills and just cut them in two and would only eat half of it. . . . I explained to him that these fish eating birds always caught the weakest fish and the ones that were easiest to catch were probably afflicted with some disease and that the presence of these birds no doubt has kept off a pestilence among the fish on this lake. I also discussed these birds from this angle with everyone that I contacted."

Late records of Mourning Dove nests are being compiled for the use of the U. S. Biological Survey. Members who can furnish such data are requested to send it to Mrs. Amelia Laskey, Graybar Lane, Nashville.

THE MIGRANT

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"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough, it is not necessary to go beyond it."

EDITORIAL CHAT

The Regional Wildlife Conference, scheduled for Nashville on July 14, 15 and 16, is a significant event. It will be addressed by conservation leaders of national reputation and be attended by hundreds from Tennessee and adjacent states. Birds will receive a generous share of attention on this program and it is encouraging to know that their worth from an aesthetic standpoint is growing steadily in the minds of the general public.

The steady development of wildwood parks thruout the country, brings from visitors to these areas a desire to become acquainted with the wildlife present and about the birds there centers the greatest of such interest. The article on the summer birds of Pickett Forest Park in this issue, will be reprinted for wider distribution. Reprints of the list of birds of Roan Mountain, published last year, are also available.

John James Audubon, more than any other naturalist, has captured the fancy of the reading public as witnessed by the fact that the fourth recent biography of him has just appeared. The author is Mr. Stanley C. Arthur of Louisiana, the publisher is Harmonson's of New Orleans and the price (edition limited) is five dollars. The Bayou Sara country of southern Louisiana was "home" to the colorful Audubon thru his happiest and most ornithologically productive years and Mr. Arthur has brought out these and many other details in a very thoro and entertaining manner. A big book, amply embellished with illustrations and well worth possessing.

The Editor again invites members to send in notes and articles for publication. If articles on the birds of your locality are not appearing in "The Migrant," it is probably because you have failed to contribute to its columns.

STATE OFFICERS: On the Annual Spring Field Day at Nashville, the following officers were elected for the year beginning July 1st. President, Merrill S. Carter, Nashville; Vice-pres. for East Tenn., Wm. M. Walker, Knoxville; Vice-pres. for Middle Tenn., Amelia R. Laskey, Nashville; Vice-pres. for West Tenn.; Ben B. Coffey, Memphis; Editor-Treasurer, Albert F. Ganier, Nashville, and Secretary, Harry C. Monk, No. 3108 Long Blvd., Nashville. Your officers will appreciate suggestions from members. Nominations for new members should be sent to the Secretary.

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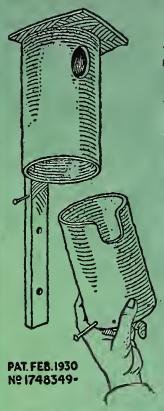

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Mississippi Kites at home

THE MIGRANT

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FEEDING AND NESTING OF THE MISSISSIPPI KITE

By Gordon Vaiden

My experience with the Mississippi Kite *(Ictinia Misisippiensis)* has been limited but since 1918 I have had opportunity to study them here from time to time in the vicinity of Rosedale, in Bolivar County, Miss. This locality is on the east bank of the Mississippi River and one-hundred miles southwest of Memphis.

My first experience with the nesting of this bird was in 1919, when a nest was located some one and one-half miles north of Rosedale, Bolivar County, Miss., on June 4. The nest was built about fifty-five feet up and against the trunk of a very large cottonwood, that required a great deal of time and exertion to reach. It was about twenty-five feet to the first limb and this part of the climb was made by a knotted rope thrown over the first limb and then climbed by the hand over hand method. After resting and working out a plan of procedure, I finally managed to negotiate the balance of the tree to the nest crotch. Since at that time I was particularly interested in securing a set of eggs for my collection, I was surprised and disappointed to find a young bird in the nest some 10 days old. One of the parent birds, the female I believe, was very angry and persisted in attempting to make "sashays" at my head. The other seemed more willing to allow an examination of the nest and remained some distance away in a sycamore, always alighting in the foliage, even though there was a dead limb near the top of the tree. Occasionally this bird would soar near the nest tree but gave no indication of the anger and battle being staged by his mate.

The nest was about twenty feet from the very top of the cottonwood and was made of sticks, leaves, and lined with fresh leaves of pecan and sycamore. However, most of the leaves were rapidly drying out. The nest proper was some seven and one-half inches across the top, about seven inches high, and measured about twenty-six inches in circumference. It was well concealed from above and below. The nest was located by a plantation manager when the birds continued to alight in the trees near the spot containing the nest tree. These birds, presumed to be the same pair, nested again in this tree

NOTE: The frontispiece represents a pair of Mississippi Kites at their nest in a sweet-gum tree, found at Vicksburg, Miss., on May 26, 1901. In the air are two more Kites, catching and eating cicadas on the wing. The drawing was prepared from photographs and field sketches made at the time of the nest and of a living bird, by the Editor. Photographs of this bird and of other nests are reproduced in A. C. Bents Life Histories of North American Birds, Proceedings, U. S. National Museum, Volume 167.

SEP 30 1937

during 1920 but I did not attempt to reach the nest that year as I was away most of May and June.

In 1921, after a much more careful watching of the nest tree and a pair of Kites, presumably the same birds, I succeeded, on May 18, in attaining a desired wish, that of collecting a set of two eggs. The eggs were white or dark white, with a possible bluish tinge. There were no markings at all other than a little nest stain caused by fresh pecan leaves in the nest. Little if any new work had been done on this nest except possibly a new lining and the green leaves of the pecan, which had been noted in the center of the nest during the 1919 visit. These birds continued to nest in this tree until the woods were partly cleared for firewood in the fall of 1925. Since the date mentioned, one or more pair of Mississippi Kites have been noted in and near Rosedale in May or June, or both months, up to the present year. However nó nests have been found nor has any careful search been made.

In 1937, on May 5, a pair of Kites were observed flying and sailing high over Rosedale. Later, on the same date, a pair was observed soaring higher and higher about one mile south of town. On May 9, a pair was seen not over two-hundred fifty feet up, gliding upward, as my observation proved, until lost to sight. On May 19, while riding the crown of the Mississippi River levee some eleven miles south of Rosedale a pair of these birds were noted. We drove for possibly three miles further south on the levee and then retraced our route. In a clump of woods between levee and the cleared fields a flight of Kites was observed and we counted nine birds. The woods were some four-hundred yards wide and possibly a mile long, running parallel with the levee and open fields. The trees consisted of red gum, sycamore, and a few large, partly dead cypress. The birds were observed flying in and out of the woods for possibly an hour; some leaving for a soaring flight of a possible two-thousand feet upward, and then diving back with partly, mostly, closed wings, to the tops of the trees. After a watch of an hour we went into the woods and found everywhere, on everything green, thousands of cicadas. Upon these insects the Kites were filling their crops and gizzards. The cicadas were the periodical type, the thirteen or seventeen year, red-eyed 'w' "locust" as called by most people.

On May 20, I returned to the woods again, by way of the crown of the levee, and witnessed the greatest flight I have observed. We counted thirty-four birds, but accepting a few as repeats there were at least twenty-eight in the woods at this time. Two specimens collected for skins, one a male and the other a female, contained fifty-one and forty-two cicadas respectfully. The female's crop also contained one grasshopper. The majority of cicadas had had their wings removed but a good many had wings and legs yet remaining on the body. Of course the red eyes were mostly counted as the gastric juices had failed to digest these at time of taking the specimens. On May 21, I again returned and found only six Kites during some two hours stay. On May 22, only a pair were observed near the woods in or near the place; however, two others were observed some five miles north of this area. Yet the woods continued to ring with the wing vibrations of the cicadas. The trees were quite thickly populated with Kingbirds, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Crested Flycatchers, Redwing Blackbirds, Crows, Bronzed Grackles, Blue Jays, and a few Summer Tanagers. Following this date, I continued to locate

an occasional Kite at the above mentioned "cicada lunch-room" south of Rosedale until on July 1st, when I observed fourteen of them flying over the willows on the river side of the levee. Following the levee northward for about six miles, nine more Kites were counted, making a total of twenty-three seen during the morning.

For graceful, gliding, motionless, sailing the Mississippi Kites are flyers to the last degree of excellence. Upward on outstretched wings, with only a movement of their 'rudder', and then a high dive downward to the top of a sycamore or sweetgum and again upward with the speed of the fastest; then it makes circle upon circle upward to almost beyond the range of vision and yet the bird is back with us in the woods feeding on cicadas as though they had not made a high journey within the past two to five minutes. Their marvelous gyrations, long head-long dives, with half-closed wings, upward banks, and rudder-tailed dips without a movement of outstretched wings was most delightful to watch. Whenever a cicada ventured out into the open above the highest or lowest trees, there was a Kite right there to take him in with his red, scaly-legged talons; in a moment it transferred cicada from foot to mouth. Some times I saw wings float away on the breeze and at other times I am sure wings and all went down. A great many of the insects were taken on the wing from the leaves without a momentary halt in flight.

I found that these birds begin to feed about four-thirty to five in the morning and about noon start a long rest of some two hours or more. While a few individuals, or perhaps two at a time, remained in the air, the majority alighted in live foliage to rest and doze with a full gizzard. After four o'clock in the afternoon they started to leave and had disappeared entirely by four-forty. Not a one was in the woods so far as we could detect after that time. There is no doubt in my mind that this has been a great year for this bird, at least in this immediate vicinity and I wonder if there has not been drawn to this area, nesting birds from other sections by reason of the plentiful supply of its favorite food, cicadas, the 13-year or 17-year "locusts.'

ROSEDALE, MISSISSIPPI, July, 1937.

OBSERVATIONS ON MIXED FLOCKS IN AUTUMN

BY GEORGE R. MAYFIELD

During late summer and early fall one may go afield in search of birds without finding more than a few scattered individuals. Then after becoming somewhat discouraged by the absence of the birds the observer will suddenly come upon a well defined flock moving slowly along with Chickadees and Titmice leading the group. By following the flock quietly the observer will often be surprised to find that there are more than a dozen species represented in this little company.

For the past ten years, the writer has usually spent September and early October at his camp on Stone's River. Bird records have been kept daily and one of the most interesting features of the fall migration has been the flocking of birds during these two months. Many autumns have been spent near College Park, Georgia, before this time and also in other sections of the South and the observations made in these localities seem to tally with those mentioned above. This camp, Birds-I-View, is one of several summer

places located on a bluff overlooking Stone's River, about ten miles east of Nashville at the end of the Elm Hill Road. This particular bluff tract comprises twenty-five acres of woodland with much underbrush. Second-growth hickory, oak, ash, elm and cedar prevail as the most common types of trees. The young of these trees with many kind of shrubs make this area popular with both low and high-feeding birds. For thirteen years no fires have swept this tract as they formerly did every year or so and the results of this protection are quite a lesson in tree production to near-by farmers who still burn over their wood lots. The banks of Stone's River, the cultivated fields near by, the hedges along the road and a willow growth marsh in the lowlands, have also been included in the daily walks for bird study. Weeds, grass and briers, bordering the woodland, furnish food and shelter for many birds which feed low during migration. The flocks discussed in this article, however are for the most part tree-feeding species rather than ground-loving birds.

The groups begin to form about the first of September. The nucleus is always made up of noisy Carolina Chickadees and Tufted Titmice with numbers ranging from two to six for each species. The chatter and scolding of these two species betray the presence of the flock. Close examination will usually show one to three Wood Pewees, one to three Summer Tanagers, one or more Black-and-white Warblers, Carolina Wrens, White-eyed Vireos, Red-eyed Vireos, Yellow-throated Vireos, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, a Crested Flycatcher, one of the Woodpeckers and some migrating Warblers. The most common species of the latter are the Black-throated Green, the Magnolia, the Chestnut-sided, the Bay-breasted and the Redstart. Occasionally a Blackburnian, Sycamore, Cerulean, Hooded, Kentucky, or Canadian is found and adds zest to the hunt. The Tennessee and Wilson's Warblers, the Chat, the Maryland Yellow-throat and the Ovenbird seem to prefer to migrate as individuals or in flocks of their own.

The main flock on the bluff begins moving from the northeast end of this area about sunrise. They feed southwest along the edge of the bluff usually and thus furnish an excellent target for binoculars. Chickadees and Titmice lead the way with their whistling, clucking and other calls. The Wood Pewee, the Summer Tanager and the Black-and-white Warbler are usually in the vanguard. The Vireos, the Warblers and other kinds of birds appear to rely on their leaders to set the pace and select the best feeding grounds. Snatches of summer songs from many of these species often intersperse the continual chips or calls of the throng.

In the course of two hours they reach their limit about one-half mile from the starting point and then begin a leisurely return to the morning rendezvous and there remain in comparative quietness during mid-day. Generally the party will form again for the afternoon trip. The permanent residents seem to fix the time, the area to be covered and the rate of travel. The local species of migrants are apparently the same for weeks at a time. The presence of two to four Blackburnians, Redstarts or other less common species of the same age or sex remaining for some days in succession would indicate that migrants drop down to rest and feed for a while before resuming their long flight to southern climes. A change to cooler weather often marks the end of one flock and the formation of a new one. One by one the migrating

species nesting locally will vanish from the flock and as cool weather comes on the winter visitors will join with the Chickadees and the Titmice for their daily trips.

The calls from the leaders will usually reveal the situation, socially and psychologically. The "all's-well" feeding call is the most common note heard and conduces to keeping the flock together and setting the pace for all the birds. The normal calls may give way to a "snake-call" when some keen-eyed explorer discovers a serpent enemy lying along a limb or partly hidden among the vines. The whole group gathers around with cries of alarm and defiance to look over the situation for a few moments; each bolder bird flutters up very close to the snake and takes one daring look as though to challenge him for a strike. Then they all pass on to new fields. The discovery of an owl is the signal for fun and noise making. The poor owl is always the subject of vulgar gossip and scolding for the birds seem to have little fear of the owl by day. Should a hawk fly over there is a sharp danger signal and the birds sit motionless and almost hidden from view. At times I have followed them a long time and then, as though they had grown tired of being watched, the leader gives the signal of "duck." In less than a minute the entire flock has vanished as if by magic and a little later their feeding calls would be heard again some distance away.

The reasons suggested for flocking, like those for migration, are many and uncertain. The protective watchfulness afforded by many birds in a group, the pleasure of companionship, the vacation period after rearing the young and moulting their summer plumage, and the advantage of following leaders well acquainted with the best feeding grounds, are some of the causes advanced by those who have watched this tendency to flock in the Fall. Among human beings we have noted the same tendency in the lives of the Pilgrim Fathers, the pioneers of the West and the explorers of new areas. The writer of this article will be pleased to receive additional observations from others in connection with this annual tendency of migrating birds.

NASHVILLE, TENN., August, 1937.

A SEPTEMBER VISIT TO REELFOOT LAKE

BY CHAS. F. PICKERING, M.D.

On my arrival at Reelfoot Lake, my guide or "pusher," Mr. Williams, immediately told me he had a sight to show me after lunch. I had met this man in May of this year and he therefore knew I was interested in birds. I believe that he too is interested, for during my four-day stay on the lake he called my attention to many things he had observed and things he wanted to do. I mention this man's interest before I proceed with my story because I believe my interest in what I saw in May and my association with him then, showed him the interesting possibilities he had with birds on the lake.

About two o'clock we took a boat and pulled through very heavy moss to Buck Basin, a large open area of water close to Samburg. Here we saw 1000 or more American Egrets, mostly standing about on the stumps and logs. Many Great Blue (Ward's) Herons as well as Little Blues were with them but the Egrets were quite in the majority. The birds were "fishing" in this spot and we saw them poised in the many attitudes they take when setting near the water to eat or make a catch. There were so many of these

birds and we were among them so long that they became accustomed to our presence and before we left we were able to maneuver in any direction we wished. This made it possible to make many photographs quite close at hand, some of the birds on the stumps and others of them in flight. They were also made at a distance with a telephoto lens. The effect of many years of protection is reflected in the comparative gentleness of these birds.

My companion said that they would go to roost at sunset so we waited around to watch them do so. As the time grew near, we saw them leave the water in bunches of twenty-five, fifties, hundreds, and fly into the trees close at hand, presenting a very beautiful sight. The trees into which they flew were cypress trees which stood in the water. About the same time our Egrets were going to roost, we saw some twenty-five or thirty Wood Ibis in the air and they too, went to the trees the Egrets were in but the Ibis invariably chose the topmost branches. Each afternoon before sunset, during the remainder of my stay, we could see the Egrets and Ibis flying high and low and all in the general direction where we had first observed the roost.

I visited the Bald Eagles nest, near Mud Basin, which I had seen in May but did not see them near the tall cypress in which the nest was built. However I saw both the adult and immature birds the next afternoon over Blue Basin which is at the north end of the lake. Also in Blue Basin was seen, in flight and at rest, a Duck Hawk. When this falcon was first seen, on a tall dead stump, he was sitting quite peacefully and I had an excellent view of him there, through my 7x35 glasses. Suddenly he darted out and I saw that he had dashed forward to meet twenty-five or thirty Crows which must have thought they would "clean house" with him, but the Duck Hawk cleaned house with the Crows and my last view of them was over the tops of the trees close by and he had the Crows flying in all directions away from him.

On Blue Basin were many Pied-billed Grebes and Coots. With the Coots I observed a Florida Gallinule and many Least Terns were flying about. Finally two large birds came winging their way along near the surface, that gave me a real thrill, for they were Caspian Terns. They were the size of Herring Gulls and wore black caps, red bills and forked tails. We could see Wood Ducks everywhere we went. They are quite plentiful and a goodly number raised there I am sure for I saw many birds in May and also found a number of nests. Most of my time was spent in a boat and on the one trip I made into the woods, I found nearly all of our usual summer birds together with a few transients. Nearly all of these land birds were in song and this was a delight, for they had been quiet for some time past.

I have mentioned that I was on the lake in May of this year. An interesting observation made on that trip was of a Brown Creeper, seen on May 10th, which at that late date would indicate that this bird was on its nesting ground. This species was found nesting across the river, about forty miles southwest, in the St. Francis Basin, by Mr. Otto Widmann, who in his "Birds of Missouri," states that a nest with eggs was found there on June 2, 1894, and that in 1898, three more nests were found on May 16.

For one who is interested in birds, I advise a trip to Reelfoot. Here, not only the land birds may be observed but the less familiar water-loving species may also be seen and in a most picturesque and interesting environment. Such a trip will always prove highly interesting.

CLARKSVILLE, TENN., Sept., 1937.

BIRD BANDING BREVITIES NO. 11

By Amelia R. Laskey

As the No. 10 installment of Brevities, appearing last March, did not include all the spring items of interest to bird banders, an unusual coincidence of return dates of a male Indigo Bunting, No. H73036, is worthy of mention here. He was banded on Aug. 30, 1933, and was not recaptured until the spring of 1935. Repeat records indicate he spent three consecutive seasons near the station. Each spring he returned on the same date, May 14, 1935, May 14, 1936, and May 14, 1937! He was at least 4 years old.——Lincoln Sparrows were banded on April 23rd and May 14, 1937. A few of this species are trapped consistently each year: 34 at Blossomdell in 5 years. Its seeming rarity is doubtless due to the difficulty of field identification.——On April 21st, Red-eyed Towhee No. C. 186966, banded in December 1933, was killed by an automobile near home, at an age of at least 5½ years. So many birds become victims of speeding cars that it is well worth the effort to examine dead birds on the highways for bands. Several good records have come from this source and this is a fine way for everyone to cooperate in this great project.——Brown Thrasher B.252931, banded in June 1933, was a "return—3" in June 1937, at least five years old.——Another bird in the five-year group is Blue Jay No. B353924, banded Sept. 1932 and trapped at a neighbor's in May 1937. It had never been retaken at the banding station.—— Two Catbirds, 34-107521 and -535 banded as adults in the nesting season of 1934 were not retaken until this year, four or more years old. None of these old birds showed signs of age.——Although the home station and several substations are within a four mile by two mile area, it is very seldom that a bird trapped in one place is retaken at another station. But a female Cardinal banded in December 1935 at Belle Meade, was captured in May 1937 at Blossomdell, 4 miles northeast. How many years of bird banding it will take to get enough records to determine something definite about the dispersal movements of these wandering groups of Cardinals that appear in fall and winter for brief stays at feeding stations.——Another instance of an old bird returning after many years was that of H17826, a female Maryland Yellowthroat. She had been banded in August of 1932 and not retaken until June 1937, remaining for several weeks. This is my second five year old Maryland Yellowthroat. This species proved to be unusually numerous at Blossomdell this summer. During June and July, 27 individuals were trapped, 12 of which were returns of birds banded in previous years. As these birds did not all nest in the immediate vicinity of the station, one is at a loss for an explanation of their sudden appearance. Was it the water-drips that attracted them or does a migration movement begin early for this species? A pertinent fact is that of the 12 returns, 8 had been banded the previous September.——Handling many thousands of birds, some of them many times, there is ample opportunity to note ecto-parasites, deformities, and progress of diseases among this individualized avian population. About 10 per cent of my Field Sparrows and individuals of several other species bear evidence of a parasitic disease of the toes which in its final stage, causes the loss of the tip of the toe and the claw but is not fatal to the bird. Numerous other afflictions have been noted and all are given whatever aid possible. Usually

the affected parts are treated with 5 per cent mercurochrome or iodine. However, this summer, a number of Field Sparrows and a Chipping Sparrow have been found with afflictions that either directly or indirectly proved fatal or caused the entire foot to drop off. In some cases there was a very large smooth soft growth or cluster of growths on head or body; in other cases the feet became so swollen they were useless and death resulted. One bird when trapped was found with disease in its final stage in one foot which was about to fall off. These badly diseased sparrows were in immature plumage. Sometimes it was possible to amputate diseased portions with apparent success and release the bird in a less handicapped condition, but one is hindered by lack of knowledge of the nature of many of these afflictions. In the July issue of *Bird Banding,* C. Brooks Worth, M.D., discusses ways and means of a nation-wide survey of bird diseases and methods of conducting studies of these birds. It is hoped a plan may be found practical for such investigations so that we who trap birds may become competent to intelligently treat them.——Another interesting phase of investigation has been put into practice at the home station this past year: the weighing of birds. Although it is tedious and time-consuming, it suggests unlimited possibilities for discovering data of much interest to students of the living bird, such as: What is the average weight of each species? Do weights of individuals vary greatly? What is effect of cold weather? Of breeding? Of the molt? etc. All species are being weighed (using metric system) as well as repeating birds. Occasionally some are weighed at dark and again before releasing early in the morning. It is most fascinating to record the weights of resident Mockingbirds through the seasons. One male has been weighed 25 times since his arrival last fall. The very few studied thus far show a rather rhythmic fluctuation of a few grams during the various phases of the nesting cycle. By February and early March they have reached a high point in weight which decreases during the ecstatic singing of the mate-calling and courtship period, dropping somewhat lower by summer when the last brood is being fed; a gradual increase occurred in late summer and highest weight during the inactive period of molting.——The following reports have just come from the Bureau of Biological Survey: Mockingbird No. 36-215357, banded as a nestling at the home of Leo Rippy on June 23, 1936, was found dead in March 1937 at Rising Fawn in northwest Ga.; Starling No. 34-200090, banded Feb. 11, 1934 was found dead about Oct. 15, 1936 at Clifton Springs, N. Y.; Starling No. 36-200437 banded Feb. 18, 1936 was shot Feb. 4, 1937 at Pleasant Unity, Pa.; Chimney Swift No. 34-45351 was one of 47 trapped Aug. 28, 1937 in a chimney in South Nashville by Arthur and Charles McMurray. It had been banded May 16, 1936 at Kingston, Ontario.——As the fall migration starts, pokeberries and water-drips attract transients, and visiting Mockingbirds are appearing in groups. Color-banded individuals that had moved from the station for their later nestings are reappearing in various stages of the molt.——On Sept. 6th two Gray-cheeked Thrushes were banded and on the 9th, a Wilson's and a Black-throated Green started the autumn list of migrant warblers.

NASHVILLE, TENN., Sept. 10, 1937.

THE OSPREYS BUILD A NEST

By William M. Walker

The Osprey, which has been an occasional visitor at Lake Andrew Jackson near Knoxville for the past few years, returned in early April, 1937, with a mate and began prospecting for a homesite. The first nest was built and abandoned between April 10 and 26. This nest was lined with straw that had been used as bedding for horses.

At 6:15 the morning of April 26 I saw the Osprey on the top of another dead oak tree near the middle of the lake. Apparently a storm had twisted out the tree top about twenty-five feet above the surface of the water. The oak has been dead for a long time and now only the stumps of a few larger limbs remain.

A hurried glance through my binoculars—yes, there on the broken trunk were a maximum of eight or ten sticks, possibly the beginning of another nest. Immediately the bird took wing but instead of flying away, it went over me toward a dead tree, struck by lightning two years ago. But it did not perch. Instead, it grabbed a small twig with its claw and snapped off a two foot length as its momentum carried it past. This twig was carried with one foot; perhaps only one was used in securing it. During the next half hour only one bird was present, and it made six trips for nesting material in thirty-five minutes breaking limbs from five different trees.

One time the limb selected did not snap off with ease, causing the Osprey to lose its balance and almost do a "forward spin" as it clung to the branch it had selected. With frantic beats of the wings it righted itself, only to have the perch break under the load. After a descent of approximately twenty feet the bird regained equilibrium and began a slow flight back across the lake. The weight of the limb caused the bird to lose more altitude for the first fifty or more yards and then began a desperate climb toward the top of the tree on which the nest was being constructed. As the Osprey worked its way across the lake I estimated the slender limb it carried was around ten feet in length. Trips for nesting material averaged two minutes of flight and four minutes spent in placing the stick and walking about the structure.

It is with regret that I must report both nests were torn down from the dead trees and after two days of distracted flights the Ospreys left the area. The reason given for removing the nests was, "the birds caught too many fish,"—out of this 40 to 50 acre lake. The two birds, according to a report, caught 19 fish in one day. One fish that I saw dropped on land was a carp. Thus we unfold another tragedy caused by man. To save his thousands of fish for the hook and line, he must drive away the Osprey, another of those large birds, perhaps marked for extinction except along the sea coasts.

Knoxville, Tenn., June, 1937.

NOTE: The economic status of the Osprey is fairly summed up, in U. S. Biological Survey leaflet BS-83, "Birds in Relation to Fishes" by Clarence Cottam and F. S. Uhler, 1937, as follows: "The Osprey occasionally preys on larger fishes in hatchery ponds, but rarely takes valuable game species under natural conditions. Forty-three of these birds collected in 14 states, the

District of Columbia and two Canadian Provinces, representing every month from April to October, were examined in the laboratory. Sluggish fishes formed the bulk of their diet and only one contained an important game fish—a trout. Suckers and menhaden formed by far the most important single item of food, composing nearly 43 per cent of the total. Other fishes taken frequently included yellow perch, bullheads, sunfish, carp, and flounders." As to fish-eating birds in general, the leaflet further says: "No important group of birds is more widely misunderstood in terms of economic relationships than the diverse assemblage classed as "fish-eating birds." Many persons lump the whole class as destructive because they assume that the so-called fish-eaters must be inimical to the popular and widespread sport of angling and even to commercial fishing. The name is not always applicable, however, as some of the birds do not eat fish at all, others only to a limited extent, and many feed primarily on fishes that are either worthless to man or are themselves destructive to other fishes. While a few fish-eating birds are known to inflict damage of economic importance when protective measures are not taken around fish hatcheries, a careful study reveals that under natural conditions such damage is usually slight and in most instances is more than offset by the birds consuming large numbers of spawn eaters and predators of valuable fishes. In most instances abundance and accessibility are the primary factors determining the types of fishes taken by birds. The more sluggish surface-feeding or shallow-water species not utilized by man greatly outnumber the valuable species and are more easily captured; in consequence they usually compose the bulk of the fish diet of fish-eating birds."—EDITOR.

THE AUDUBON MUSEUM AT HENDERSON, KENTUCKY

Honoring the memory of John James Audubon, famous American artist and ornithologist, a museum is being erected by Works Progress Administration workmen in the Audubon Memorial Park, a mile north of Henderson, Kentucky. High on a hill overlooking a majestic stretch of the Ohio River, the gray stone two-story building is surrounded by the 400-acre park with its rolling land and thick woods.

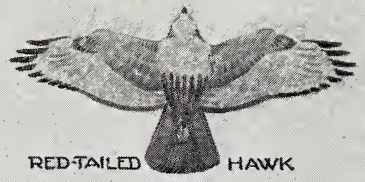
The Federal Government, the State of Kentucky, the city of Henderson, the Henderson Historical Society and the Transylvania Society are sponsoring the undertaking. In addition, Audubon enthusiasts from all over the nation have agreed to send in valuable prints, papers, portraits and other mementoes of the great naturalist, it is announced.

A complete collection of Audubon prints will be exhibited in a double frieze in the main gallery on the first floor of the museum. The second floor will have space for mounted birds, books, portraits and other Audubonia. There will also be a Kentucky room, which will contain the relics of Daniel Boone, who was a close friend of Audubon, and mementoes of other contemporaries. A Transylvania room will honor the notables of this Society of early settlers.

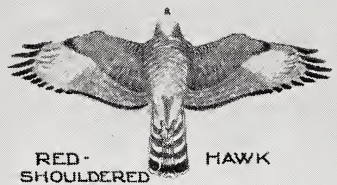
The Norman style of architecture has been employed in the museum structure because of Audubon's ancestry. This allowed the construction of a round tower in the museum with pigeon holes so that birds can nest in the

BROAD-WINGED or MOUSE HAWKS

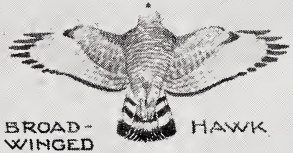
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK



RED-TAILED HAWK



RED-SHOULDERED HAWK



BROAD-WINGED HAWK

MARSH HAWK

POINTED-WINGED FALCONS

DUCK HAWK

PIGEON HAWK

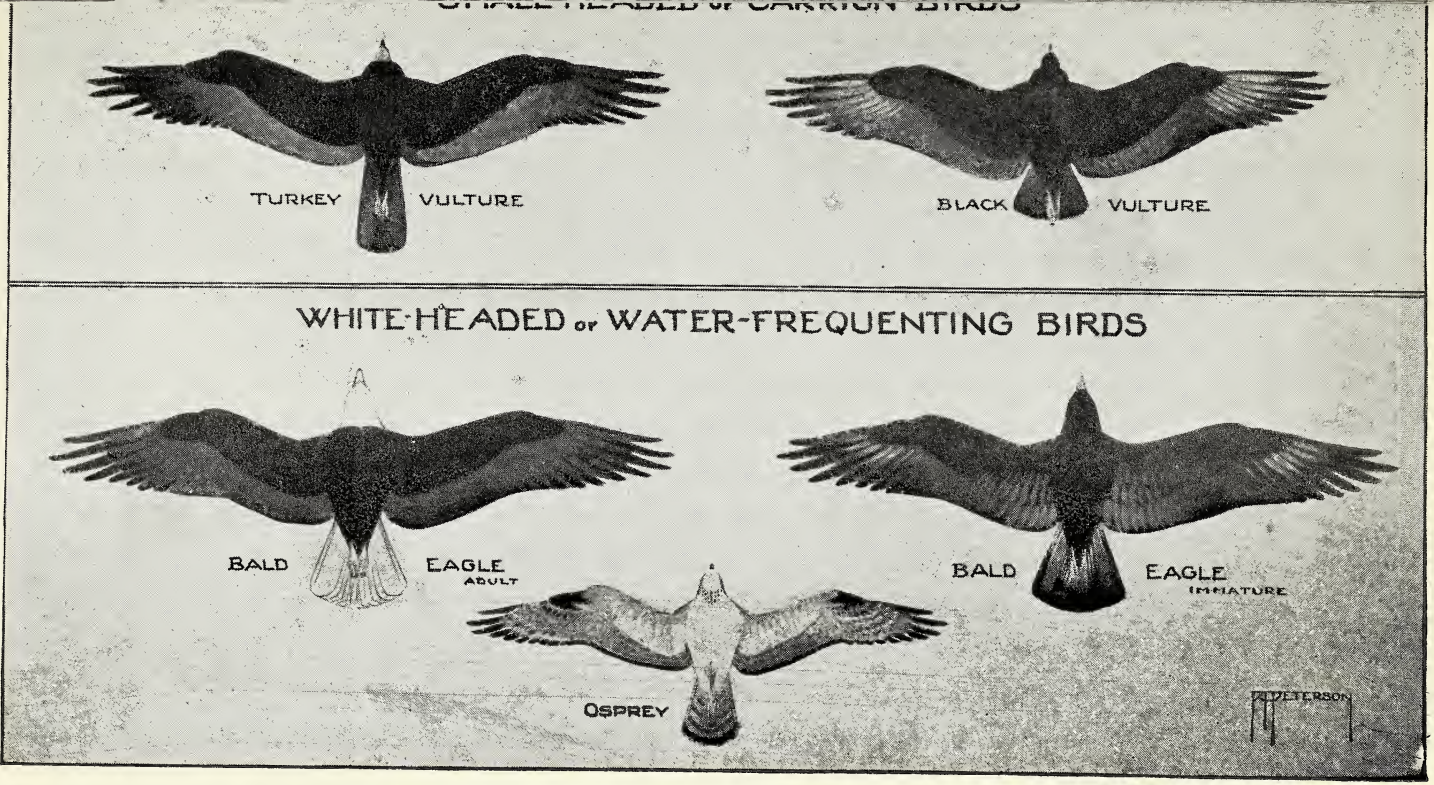
SPARROW HAWK

SHORT-WINGED or BIRD HAWKS

GOSHAWK

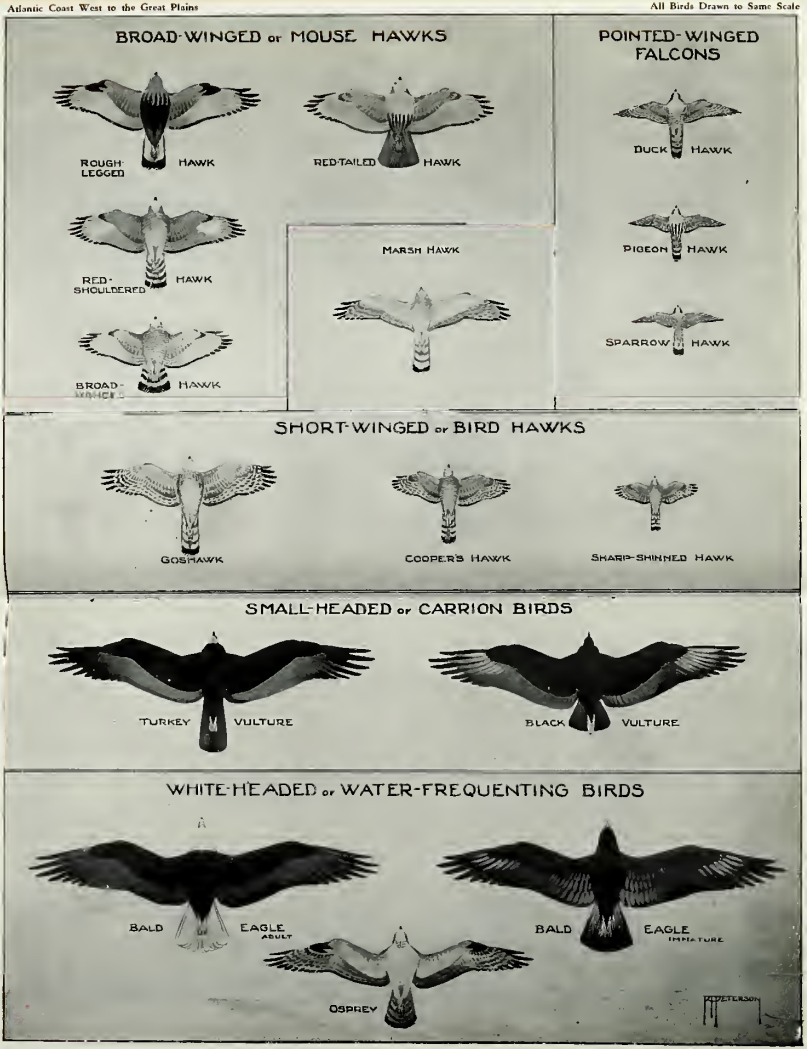
COOPER'S HAWK

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK



Some of These Hawks are Among Our Most Useful Birds

The ability to identify all of our hawks on the wing is an art that should be perfected by all bird students. Since most of our hawks are more beneficial than harmful, hunters and farmers should also learn to distinguish between them. The "short-winged hawks," pictured above, are the only ones that are more harmful than beneficial and of these, only the Cooper's is common. We are indebted to the National Association of Audubon Societies for this cut.—EDITOR.



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masonry. A formal garden will be laid out in front of the building with the wheel from the grist and lumber mill that Audubon built at Henderson, and which ended so disastrously for him, in the center. Near the museum will be a French gatehouse.

The decade that Audubon spent in Henderson included the saddest as well as some of the happist years of his life. Kentucky was practically a wilderness when he, unsuccessful in the mercantile business in Louisville, arrived at Henderson on a flatboat in 1810 at the age of 25. With him was Lucy Bakewell Audubon, whom he had married two years before. Their daughter, Lucy, died and was buried there while still a child. He continued to live at Henderson until 1820, when he became attracted to the newly developed Natchez region on the lower Mississippi and removed there.

The fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society has been scheduled for Henderson, on October 22 to 24, and the new Audubon museum will be made the center of its meeting activities. The K. O. S. invites all of our members who can attend, to do so. The Secretary, Miss Evelyn Schneider, 2207 Alta Ave., Louisville, may be addressed for further particulars.

THE ROUND TABLE

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: Last year we reported the unusually common occurrence of Short-billed Marsh Wrens during August, in the fields alongside the Lakeview levee, with a peak of 40 noted on August 9th. Not a one has been recorded this season, at any locality visited. Grasshopper Sparrows were also absent. Three were noted in fields near the Penal Farm, east of Memphis, in late July but none in mid-August at the field where 3 were noted July 16, 1936, for our first local summer record. One to two Great Horned Owls have been seen on most weekly trips, in the fringe of tall trees between levee and each lake. The swallow migration along the levee this August was very light and by Labor Day had almost dwindled to nothing. The most unusual migration noted was the presence on the evening of September 5th, of about 5,000 Kingbirds, half of which appeared to be about to go to roost in a large area of willows in the western section of Mud Lake, and the other half all around, part in the taller cypresses along the levee. John Pond and I visited this spot after dark and managed to catch one Kingbird and one Yellow-billed Cuckoo by using a spotlight. We found about 200 Kingsbirds, easily frightened and too high to reach. The others had apparently moved on. The next afternoon Pond did not find a one here but reported seeing 100 at North Lake.——Another migration phenomenon was the passing of Green Herons overhead in the city on the nights of Sept. 5th and 6th. Returning home late on the night of the 5th I heard their calls at the rate of about one bird a minute for some time before retiring. The next night the calls were more infrequent but were still noticeable.——I have been unable to decide whether evening flocks of Grackles and of Robins are transients or local summer resident groups going to roost in a nearby group of large trees. One evening recently about 30 Robins were present on the lawn, and three bird baths, closely grouped for the July flock of Robins which

completely stripped the sumach clump of a bountiful berry crop, were given a rush. As many as three at a time in one and a total of six birds in the three, with others sitting on the edge waiting. Some had to do more fighting than bathing.——Wood Ibis have been reported several times at Mud Lake; on Aug. 24th, 150 were seen by Pond and on the 29th, 42 were seen. A few reports of one and two have been made by other Scout observers. Mud Lake's water level held up better than usual this year but moderately large mud flats on the north and west side have proved attractive to shorebirds while the herons still have most of the lake remaining to feed in. Lesser Yellowlegs have ranged in numbers from 10 to 50, Pectoral from none to 20, Solitary Sandpiper from 6 to 16. Spotted Sandpiper records are, 3 on Aug. 29 and 2 on Sept. 5. On Sept. 12 we spent most of our time in distinguishing Stilt Sandpipers from the numerous L. Yellowlegs which flushed with them. Final estimates were 15 of the former and 50 of the common species. Fourteen Semipalmated Plovers were noted on Aug. 29 and 9 on Sept. 5th. The most numerous were the "peeps" ranging from 100 to 400. Partial estimates for the Least, Semipalmated, and Western Sandpipers respectively were 25, 50 and none on Aug. 29; 30, 100 and 100 on Sept. 5; and 75, 150, and 25 on Sept. 12. A few were seen other dates and many others on these dates could not be listed by species.——Blue-winged Teal numbered 15 on Aug. 29 and 60 on Sept. 5th and 12th. Only a few Wood Ducks were reported. Seven Pintails in either female, immature or eclipse plumage were on hand Sept. 5 and a Mallard hen on the 12th.——Black Terns were seen Aug. 29 (five) and Sept. 12 (three) and Least Tern last seen on the former date (six).——With only two previous records for the Memphis area the presence of Snowy Egrets has been interesting. I saw my first one in this section on Sept. 5 and a week later estimated 15 present. Pond saw one on Aug. 21 and found two on Sept. 6 which had been shot at the edge of Mud Lake. American Egrets have frequently numbered 150 and Little Blue Herons up to 100. Estimates of the adult and immature forms of the latter species are 50 and 60, respectively, on Sept. 5, and 20 and 50 on Sept. 12. The large proportion of adults on the 5th is unusual. Great Blue Herons have ranged up to 12 in number, but generally uncommon.——Jack Shaffer reports hearing a Whip-poor-will at Camp Currier on Sept. 1. John Pond reports 3 Black-throated Green Warblers in Overton Park, Aug. 7.—BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis, Tenn.

NOTES ON THE BIRD LIFE OF REELFOOT LAKE: The writer, in company with Mr. Woodrow Goodpaster and Peter Koch, of Cincinnati, spent the period from the 6th to the 18th of June of the past summer at Reelfoot Lake. Our chief aim was to record in still pictures and movies the home life of the birds of 'Cranetown.' Mr. Goodpasture who represented the Cincinnati Society of Natural History devoted much of his time to collecting reptiles, amphibians, and insects, chiefly from the two arms of the lake that reach into Kentucky. Mr. Koch and I spent most of our time huddled behind our cameras in a small blind some one-hundred feet up in a staunch cypress tree, and consequently our range of observation of the bird life of Reelfoot Lake was chiefly limited to that which nested within range of our cameras or flew overhead. We managed to spend about eighteen daylight hours on the lake itself exploring the reed beds for marsh birds and one full day searching the

Mississippi River sandbars for Least Tern nests. We made our headquarters at Tiptonville, Tennessee.

Since Federal laws prohibiting the traffic in Egret plumes were passed years ago, we were anxious to determine what single factor might still be called the chief enemy of the American Egret. During our first week we had a splendid opportunity to learn. Storms of gale-like proportions twice ripped through Cranetown, flattening our blind and hurling certainly hundreds of young birds to the swamp below. Perched in the lower limbs of our blind-tree after the first storm, we were able to count fully a hundred young Egrets and Ward's Herons strewn about the base of a dozen cypress trees in range of our vision. Some were dead, others crippled, while a few stalked around unharmed. We put a merciful end to the crippled birds. The live ones we left to their own devices since we had no way of knowing from which nest they had fallen. Seventy-five per cent of the young birds we found on the ground or in the water were Egrets. Four hours after the storm, scores of Black Vultures were gorging themselves on the carcasses of the dead birds. The second storm was not as severe since we counted only twenty-five birds in the same area where before we saw more than a hundred.

Strangely enough we found not one young Cormorant among the birds blown from their nests. Apparently the long legs of the herons are their undoing during such elemental disturbances. The only Cormorant we saw fall from a nest met his death under most unusual conditions. An adult Ward's Heron came to rest in a cluster of Cormorant nests extending along a horizontal limb. A young Cormorant about two-thirds grown, raised its body as though begging for food. Its bill barely touched the heron's legs. Stooping swiftly, the heron drove its sword-like bill into the youngsters back with such force that the Cormorant tumbled backward out of the nest to the water, a hundred feet below. It struck with a resounding smack and lay quite still. The heron calmly preened itself for a moment and then departed. We later examined the young bird and found that the heron's furious attack and not the fall had killed the young Cormorant for its back was pierced through to the vital organs by the long hard bill. Another enemy of the Egret we saw in action was a raccoon which was fleeing sure-footedly along a cypress branch from a nest he had just pilfered. His escape was made most unpleasant by half a dozen old birds that stormed along in back of him. We also found a set of three Egret eggs that had been punctured as though by a Crow.

During the time we spent searching the marshes for nests we found five Least Bittern nests. All contained eggs, ranging from one to five. One set of five was pipped. This set and another on which we had blinds, were both being incubated by the male bird only, during our observations. Four of these nests were found in the marshes of Nix Towhead almost due north of Samburg. The fifth nest was discovered in the reeds growing along the northeast shore of the lake less than a mile from the same village. Peculiarly enough we flushed no Florida Gallinules, but did manage to scare up at least two Purple Gallinules. Both of these were in the same marsh where we found the fifth Bittern nest. One of these birds alighted in a willow tree not forty feet distant from us and afforded us a splendid view. We discovered one Gallinule nest on Nix Towhead with five eggs. We were unable to

determine to which species it belonged since we found it destroyed when we returned to make pictures of it three days later.

Least Terns were always to be found on the lake and following Mr. Ganier's advice we visited the Mississippi River sandbars opposite New Madrid in an effort to find a nest. We eventually discovered one after a half day's search, and later learned to our surprise that the nest, which was on a sandbar, was in Fulton County, Kentucky, and not in Tennessee as we had supposed. At the time of our original discovery the nest contained two eggs. We collected the set as a complete one three days later, since it still had the same number of eggs and both birds were still incubating. This, we believe, is the first nesting record of this species for the state of Kentucky.

We had taken along a copy of Whittemore's report on 'The Summer Birds of Reelfoot Lake' and found it most helpful. His analysis of the relative abundance of various species corresponded quite accurately with our limited observations in all respects except one. That exception concerns the abundance of the Dickcissel. Whittemore reports, 'Two records, July 16th and August 10th, each of three birds in the fields of the south end of the lake, compromise all the data for Dickcissels.' We traveled the highway by auto from Tiptonville to the state line nearly each day during our stay and found this finch to be quite the most abundant land bird in that area, seeing at least two dozen of them strung along the weeds and wires on each trip. We learned that Whittemore's observations were largely confined to those made on foot or by canoe, so naturally he would not have the same advantages as we did in seeing these birds in more suitable habitat, away from the lake along the highways.—KARL MASLOWSKI, Cincinnati, Ohio.

A CANOE TRIP ON CUMBERLAND RIVER from Clarksville to Dover and back August 14th to 20th enabled us to list 69 species of land and water birds. We visited the nesting site of the Cliff Swallows at Lock D below Dover, but saw neither there nor during the rest of the trip any of these birds. In view of the large number of them that we found last year at Lock B, we suppose that by the middle of August colonies have already combined in getting ready to migrate. There was a flock of 30 or more Rough-winged Swallows at Cumberland City and on the last day out we met at dusk, just above Palmyra, a mixed flight of Purple Martin, Rough-winged Swallows, Barn Swallows and Kingbirds. They were travelling at great speed close to the water. Later that night we saw two groups of American Egrets take wing at our approach in the uncertain light of the moon breaking through clouds. This last day had been our lucky one, for at Lock C we had found Black and Least Terns (4), the latter a new species for our Montgomery County list. The finest sight we beheld was a flock of 8 Little Blue Herons in their white plumage; none of the old birds were seen by us. Regularly occurred, in order of their abundance, were the Green Heron, Kingfisher, Great Blue Heron and Wood Duck. The Kingfisher's rate of occurrence was about one bird, or sometimes a pair, every mile and a half.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville, Tenn.

BIRD ROOSTS IN NASHVILLE: As in former years, immense numbers of Grackles, Starlings, Cowbirds and Robins have been roosting thru August and September in the trees between Blair, Portland, 18th and 20th Avenues. With them on Aug. 21 were many Purple Martin.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville.

NOTES FROM MEMBERS OF THE CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

The following are some of the items that have been reported at our meetings. Horned Grebe: August 22, a female or immature on Dunbar Cave lake.——Great Blue Heron: Since July 5th in fair numbers.——Turkey Vulture: Lamar Armstrong saw several of them falling upon and devouring an injured young rabbit.——Broad-winged Hawk: Observed occasionally along the course of the Cumberland River.——Marsh Hawk: One shot by a farmer near the Kentucky line on Sept. 5th; the bird it was claimed, had done damage among young guineas.——Solitary Sandpiper: Well distributed since July 19th.——Least Sandpiper: A pair at the pond at edge of town since Sept. 2.——Mourning Dove: We heard of one nest that held young birds the first week of Sept. Since the season opened, Sept. 1, hunters tell of finding young hardly able to fly as yet.——Cliff Swallow: Four were seen "inland," on highway 112, on Aug. 31, by Mrs. Hutchison.——Short-billed Marsh Wrens arrived at Idaho Springs marsh, between Aug. 2 and 4, fully a week later than last year and in much smaller numbers.——Cedar Waxwing: Returned August 28.——Migrant Shrike: Observed in three places; on May 30 the young were flying but still being fed.——Black-and-white Warbler: Increase in numbers since late August.——Blue-winged Warbler: On Aug. 29, one was seen fighting on the ground with a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. A new bird for our county list, bringing it to 175 species.——Magnolia Warbler: A small but distinct wave around Sept. 1.——Black-throated Green Warbler: The first fall migrant seen Aug. 7; the same date as last year. Very few observed since.—Blackburnian Warbler: Since Sept. 4.——American Redstart: Rare in spring and summer, now in fair numbers.——Bachman's Sparrow: Found established at four separate sites; on July 11 seen with fledglings.——Several of our members heard the calls of migrating small birds during the nights of Sept. 5 and 6. There is also a report of Wild Geese going over after dark, following the rains of Sept. 5th.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, Sec'y., Clarksville, Tenn.

NOCTURNAL MIGRATION: On the nights of Sept. 4, 5 and 6, I heard a most unusual migration of birds. They were flying south or southwest by the thousands. Judging from their calls, they seemed to be small or medium sized birds; their calls were certainly not those of ducks or geese. On Saturday night of the 4th, I heard them going overhead until midnight. On the night of the 5th they were heard passing in far greater numbers. I should say there was hardly five minutes average between the groups that I heard calling to each other as they passed over my home. I listened to them pass over like this until near midnight and when I was awakened by train whistles at 2 a. m. they were still going over and continued until I fell asleep again some time later. On Monday night, the 6th, they were heard but were much fewer in numbers and on the 7th, none were heard. During the early morning no birds were to be seen in the sky, at least within range of the eye.—MRS. JOHN Y. HUTCHISON, Clarksville, Tenn.

NIGHT FLYING MIGRANTS: We had a flight of southbound birds on the night of Sept. 5th, beginning at 8 o'clock and lasting all night. It was small compared with the big flight of Oct. 23, 1935, but still it was unusual. It may be that the birds in small numbers continued to circle the town all

night but at any rate they made plenty of noise and seemed to be at all heights. Some were very low and others were up so high it was difficult to hear them. All seemed to be water birds—herons, plovers and others. Occasionally some big bird, louder than the others, would call. The plovers sounded like chickens under a hen—tremulous notes and I was unable to identify them. Some of them seemed to go over singly and others in small flocks. The night was a few degrees cooler than usual and was very cloudy and misty.—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

NOTE: In *The Migrant* for Dec. 1935, there is an extended report on the calls of night flying birds which were heard at many points on the nights of Oct. 22 and 23. A dispatch to the Nashville Banner from Woodbury, Tenn., dated Sept. 7, 1937, reads as follows: "A flock of honking geees, flying in V formation, crossed Cannon County yesterday, winging their way southward. This was the first flock seen here this year and the only one ever noticed in September." It is worthy of note that this nocturnal migration was reported from Clarksville, Memphis and Corinth, Miss. A triangle drawn to connect these points would have sides of 175, 90 and 135 miles respectively. Rainfall was general over the State on Sept. 5, but temperatures, both in and north of the State, were normal. We would be glad to have further reports. Do the city lights cause these birds to concentrate and tarry on their journey, or, was there a "blanket" of birds from Clarksville to Memphis? Members can help solve this problem, when the opportunity is again presented, by driving a few miles away from all city lights and there listening again for the calls.—EDITOR.

A CARDINAL FEEDS A YOUNG CATBIRD: The following bit of bird lore was recently related to me by my friend Elgin Wright, of this city, and I am passing it on to the readers *The Migrant* with the assurance that Mr. Wright is an entirely dependable observer. "A pair of Catbirds reared four young ones in my back yard. In July the fledglings left the nest and began ranging around in the nearby shrubs and on the ground and the mother bird worked overtime in her efforts to satisfy their ravenous appetites. One of the youngsters seemed slightly crippled as well as stunted in growth. He was therefore unable to get his share of the food brought by his mother. The parent bird tried repeatedly to fight off the stronger ones so that the afflicted one could be sufficiently fed but she had no success. The stronger fledglings would grab the tid-bits from her beak before she could reach the crippled one and his hunger calls became increasingly pronounced. At last a male Cardinal perched himself on a limb nearby, cocked his head and seemingly surveyed the situation. Then he flew away, returning shortly with a small bit of food in his beak. He sought out the Catbird fledgling and crammed the food down his mouth. Then he made frequent trips for more provender for his little ward, returning each time and repeating the performance."—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

A GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER was picked up dead on the morning of September 9th, at the East Nashville High School, and thus adds another local record for this rare species. The bird, a male, was preserved in the form of a skin by Mr. Ganier.—M. LEO RIPPY, JR., Nashville.

SPARROWS ROB A ROBIN: We are all familiar with the versatility of the English Sparrow and the following episode unfolds a new trick of this bird of our adoption. Sparrows are normally seed eaters as indicated by their short, thick bills, while Robins, with long bills and ears tuned for insect noises, are champions in the art of finding bugs, grubs and worms. While sitting on the porch one afternoon, I noticed a Robin hopping about the lawn in search of food for her young and closely followed by an English Sparrow. Presently the Robin dug up some squirming little creature and immediately the Sparrow rushed forward and grabbed it from her bill. The Robin seemed surprised for a moment then resumed her search. Soon she had unearthed another bug and as she started to fly away with it, she was followed by, not one but three Sparrows, in close pursuit. Round and round the yard they flew until the Robin, evidently convinced there was no use, alighted on the ground, whereupon the three Sparrows crowded forward and took the bug from her beak. With a look of disgust, or perhaps resignation, the Robin stood for several moments and then flew away. I have been frequently impressed with the fact that toward other birds, the Robin is friendly and even timid; there is nothing of the bully in their makeup.—HARRY S. VAUGHN, Nashville.

BLACKBIRD ROOSTS ON REELFOOT LAKE: The following letter, dated Jan. 10, 1937, gives information as to the whereabouts of some of our "blackbirds," which at that date have usually not returned to Middle and East Tennessee: "I have been watching the blackbirds for many years and am writing to ask something of their habits. I live on a farm in Obion County, which county borders Reelfoot Lake on the west and is also situated ten to thirty miles east of the Mississippi River. In the morning these birds begin coming in large droves from the west—from the direction of the lake and river. They scatter over the country, stopping in the woods to eat beech nuts. They spend the day in these beech woods, and in the cornstalks fields, where they probably find some corn. Late in the afternoon they start back westward and continue their flight until nearly dark. They pass over in an almost unbroken stream for probably 30 minutes. It would be difficult to estimate their numbers but I would say there were many millions of them. Can you tell me where they roost?"—ALEX SMITH, Obion. Tenn.

NOTE: In reply to the above we wrote Mr. Smith that the blackbirds were doubtless of several varieties. That those which frequented the beech woods were Bronzed Grackles and that in the fields, these were joined by Redwings, Starlings, Cowbirds and perhaps Rusty Blackbirds. That the wild-rice marshes at the head of Reelfoot Lake was doubtless their rendezvous and roosting place. On Oct. 13, 1934, the writer witnessed the incoming of these roosting birds in the marsh adjacent to Walnut Log, at the northeast corner of the lake. It was on the occasion of the Ky. Ornithological Society meeting there and we estimated the birds then using the marsh in the following round numbers which we regarded as conservative. Redwing Blackbirds 2,000,000, Bronzed Grackles 1,000,000, Starlings 1,000,000, Cowbirds 200,000 and Robins 5,000. It was the greatest aggregation of birds any of us had ever witnessed. Previous observations on these roosts, made Nov. 26-28, 1915, were reported in *The Wilson Bulletin* for March 1916, page 29.—EDITOR.

NIGHT SINGING OF THE BROWN THRASHER: The habit of the Mockingbird of singing at night has often been recorded but apparently less is known of his cousin the Brown Thrasher likewise indulging himself. Circumstances recently made it possible for me to make some notes on this performance and these I am giving below. The song was first heard about May 28th and continued through June. During this warm weather I slept with my head very close to an open window and, since my husband's taxi and U-drive-it business keeps him from getting home until around midnight, I rarely slept before that time so was able to check on this Thrasher's night singing. The song always came from the same location; it never varied and I could almost picture him in the very same branch every time he sang. Some nights he began about 10:30—never earlier—and on other nights I would not hear him until near midnight. At other times I would begin to think he was not going to sing at all but finally at around two o'clock he would sing. At about that time, three trains were due to pass below my home and the loud whistling of the first would awake me and I seldom slept again until the third had passed. So during that time I listened for the Thrasher's song. If he had sung before midnight, I would not hear him at the later hour. But if not, I would never fail to hear its song between the times the trains passed by. After July 1st, I did not hear a single night song and but rarely during the daytime. He was not inspired to sing because of the moonlight I discovered, for often as he sang there would not be a sign of the moon in the sky. He only failed to sing when it would rain but even the high winds before a storm did not discourage him in the least. The songs did not last over a few minutes and I do not remember hearing him sing more than once during the time I was awake in one night. He would repeat each note, often repeating as though he liked the sound of certain notes, as high as 8, 10 and even 15 times. I have learned to distinguish between the songs of the Mockingbird and the Brown Thrasher and am quite certain my singer was the latter bird.—MRS. JOHN Y. HUTCHISON, Clarksville, Tenn.

UPLAND PLOVERS AT MURFREESBORO: A pair of these birds were seen on March 10th, 1937, at "flat-rock" on the Overall farm, a few miles east of Murfreesboro. They seemed to like the place and I saw them there every week until the middle of May, the last three dates being May 9, 12 and 15. A nest was searched for but could not be found. Not being near this locality after that for several weeks, I did not see them again. The "flat-rock" is an area of limestone rock mostly bare of soil and they stayed on this or in a nearby pastured field. On Aug. 12, while visiting my neighbor Marion Edney, who lives nearby, we observed 14 of these plovers alight in a nearby pasture field. We went over and identified them with our glasses. On the following dates I made these additional records: Aug. 13, 5 birds, Aug. 17, 12 birds, Sept. 4, 3 birds, Sept.5, 8 birds, Sept. 6, 3 birds, Sept. 8, 4 birds and Sept. 14, 1 single. On Sept. 4, while looking up the plovers, I saw 2 Marsh Hawks, the first I have seen this fall.—HENRY O. TODD, Murfreesboro.

A RING-BILLED GULL ON THE CUMBERLAND: On March 27, 1936, a gull of this species was shot and wounded on the Cumberland River between Nashville and Lebanon. The injury was in one wing and the bird was unable to fly. It was in pure white plumage except for greyish wing-tips on head

feathers and the usual black on primaries. The gull was shown to T. O. S. members at their meeting of March 30th and then turned over to Mr. G. B. Woodring who released it on Radnor Lake the next day.—DIXON MERRITT, Lebanon, Tenn.

THE MEMPHIS MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY AND ART: In 1922, the city of Memphis was presented with "The Pink Palace," Clarence Saunders' unfinished "million dollar mansion" of pink marble, and thirty-five acres of the surrounding grounds to be used as a park. After some time, it was decided to complete the edifice and there to establish a museum. The gathering of collections was begun and thus far there have been assembled excellent exhibits in birds, mammals, minerals, fossils, insects, archaeology, antiques, bric-a-brac, etc., etc. The exhibit of birds comprises 565 mounted specimens of North American species and a small collection of about 30 skins, also 230 sets of eggs with a few of which the nests are included. The bird exhibit is comprised chiefly of the C. F. Boshart collection from New York, acquired some years ago by the City of Memphis. To this have been added gifts and loans by Mr. Alfred C. Schmidt, Mr. Warren Castle, and others of Memphis. Among the rarities are two Ivory-billed Woodpeckers, two Carolina Paroquets and two Passenger Pigeons. The mammal collection consists almost entirely of big game heads from North America and from Africa. The Memphis Chapter of the T. O. S. holds its meetings at the museum. Mrs. L. P. Cummins is Curator in charge.

MEETING DATES FOR T. O. S. CHAPTERS

KNOXVILLE: Sept. 26, Annual fall bird census at the Ijams farm (Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Ijams in charge); Oct. 6, evening meeting at Flowercraft (Mrs. W. M. Johnson in charge); Oct. 17, outing at Buffalo Springs (S. A. Ogden in charge); Nov. 3, evening meeting at Flowercraft (Miss Lora Bond in charge); Nov. 21, outing at Andrew Jackson lake (Prof. Barton Ressler in charge); Dec. 1, evening meeting at Flowercraft (Pres. Earl Henry in charge); Christmas Census on Dec. 26. Local Secretary, Mrs. Frank Leonhard, 203 Elmwood Ave.——NASHVILLE: Evening meetings are held on Mondays, at 7:30 p. m., in the West Parlor of the Social-Religious Bldg. of Peabody College. Sept. 27, Oct. 4 and regularly thereafter. The annual Fall Field Day will be held near Nashville on Sunday, Oct. 17; members from all parts of the State and elsewhere are invited to attend. The Christmas Census will be taken on Sunday, Dec. 26.——CLARKSVILLE: Meetings will be held every other Tuesday, at the homes of different members. The schedule is Sept. 21, Oct. 5, 19, Nov. 2, 16, 30, Dec. 14 and 28. Christmas Census on Dec. 26. For information call Dr. Pickering or Alfred Clebsch, secty.—— MEMPHIS: Evening meetings are held at the "Pink Palace" Museum and are scheduled on the following dates: Sept. 27, Oct. 11, 25, Nov. 8, 22 and Dec. 6. For dates of Fall Field Day, contact the secretary, Mrs. T. I. Klyce, 681 Shrine Bldg., Memphis.

For State Secretary of the T. O. S., the President has appointed Mr. Alfred Clebsch of Clarksville, to succeed H. C. Monk resigned. Our new Secretary will welcome your suggestions for the future development of the T. O. S. The Editor has added Mr. Clebsch to his staff as a regional editor.

THE MIGRANT

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EDITORIAL CHAT

Fall, and crisp cool days, are again at hand. With renewed energy and our inborn huntsman's urge to be afield, we feel the woods and hedgerows beckoning. Those of our summer birds which have not already gone are restlessly hurrying to and fro, trying out their new fall plumage and fattening themselves on Nature's plenty for the long flight southward. For some weeks now, the warblers from the northland have been scurrying through our tree-tops, stopping here and there to feast along the way. Before September days are past, some of our winter visitors will be with us again and by October tenth all of our native wintering sparrows—the Song, the Swamp, the Savannah, the White-throat and the White-crowned—will be back again to cheer the woods and fields on wintry days to come. Week-end hikes, to list the birds and to enjoy Nature's colorful and fruitful display, are a pleasing tonic that none can enjoy so much as those who know the birds.

Our annual mid-winter census of birdlife will be taken this year as near Christmas as possible. Some have already set their date as Sunday, Dec. 26. Last year there were census lists from a dozen different points in the State and we hope each of these localities and others will be covered. To get the best lists, the localities should be gone over several times in advance—a week or two before the main day. If the weather is bad, try a later date. The making of the list should occupy a whole day if possible. The list should then be compiled, with notes on the unusual species, and promptly sent in to *The Migrant.*

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If this and other issues have met your fancy, your thanks are due our many contributors for writing up their "finds" for your entertainment.

The American Ornithologists Union will hold its annual meeting this year in the South, at Charleston, S. C. The program sessions will be on Nov. 16, 17 and 18, followed by a Field Day on Friday, Nov. 19th. The A. O. U. meetings are always interesting and well worth attending.

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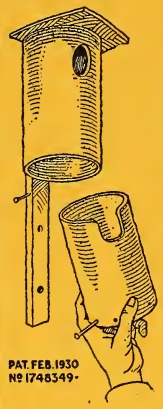

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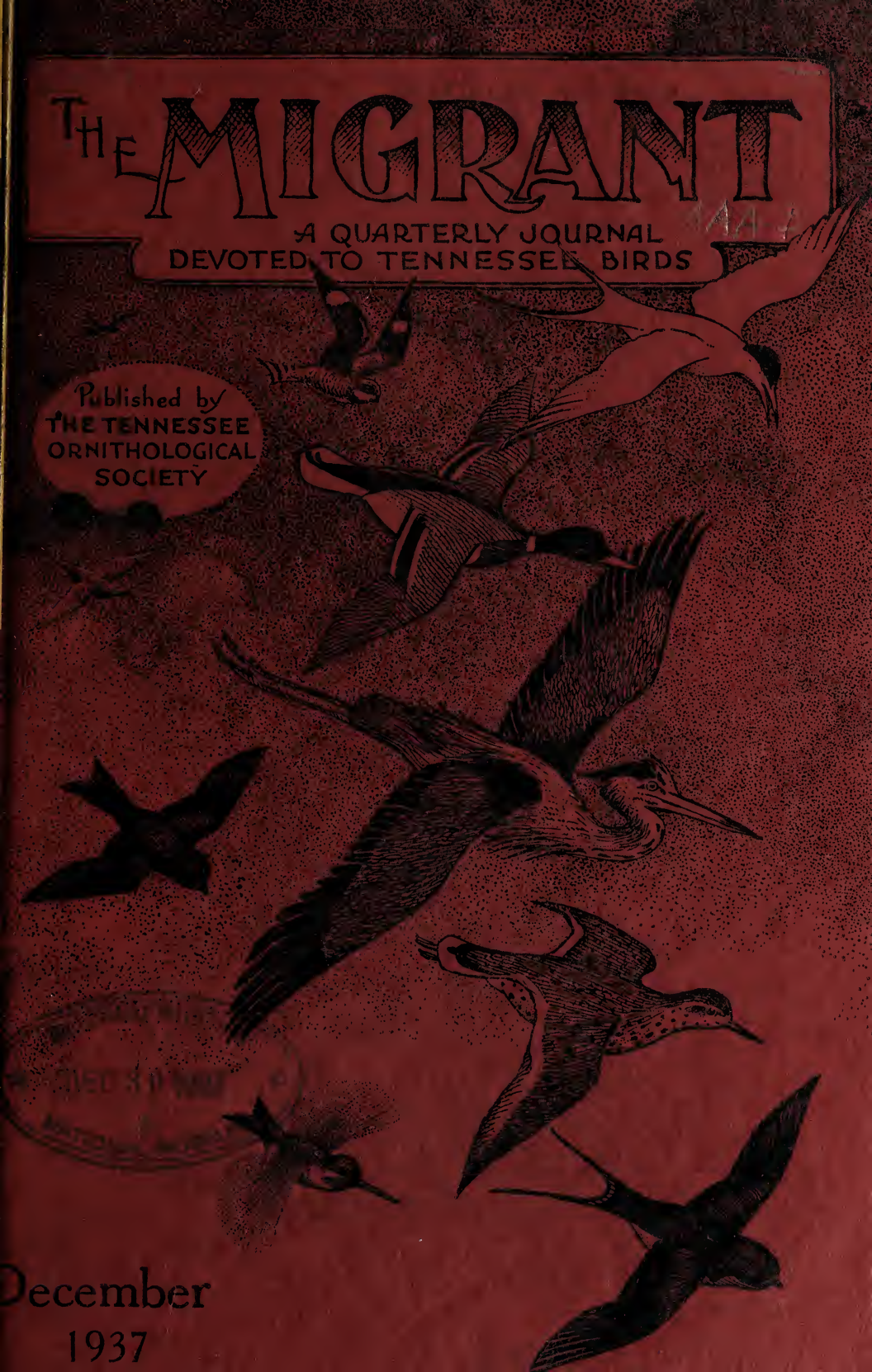

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THE MIGRANT

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NOTES ON THE SONG OF IMMATURE BIRDS

By Amelia R. Laskey

Several years ago, Mrs. M. N. Nice, in her peerless life history studies of banded Song Sparrows in Columbus, Ohio, mentioned the songs of immature birds of that species. She described them as sweet, lengthy, formless warblings, both varied and beautiful. She lamented the fact that after the Song Sparrow has definitely adopted the adult song, which occurs during the territory establishment procedure, he never returns to the warbling song of his youth. A few months later I recognized this warbling song in the lengthy performance of a transient Song Sparrow in our garden in March because it varied considerably from the usual short song of that species. That experience awakened a desire to learn more about these juvenal or "baby" songs. It would be interesting to find out if other birds have both immature and adult songs; whether the early songs are retained in the later performance or lost entirely; at what age singing begins; and at what stage of development the change in song occurs if there is such change in other species.

Although several times songs were heard that may have been those of immature Brown Thrashers, Mockingbirds, Towhees, Cardinals and others, there have been very few instances when it was possible to be sure of the status of the singer as to age or previous performance unless the singer was individualized by distinctive banding. The natural tendency of most nestlings here is to leave the immediate environment of their homes as soon as they become competent to forage for themselves and their begging is ignored or repulsed by their parents. Therefore one has few opportunities to follow banded nestlings longer than two or three weeks after they leave the nest. The meagerness of my data over a three-year period is therefore understandable and the bits of data that have been obtained will be more appreciated. So far, I have definite records on immature songs of only one species, the Cardinal, which apparently never sings the juvenal song after the adult song is definitely adopted.

On August 9, 1935, a Cardinal in the female type of plumage and a partially dark colored beak, proving it to be an immature bird, sang a soft toned, warbling song, entirely unlike that of adult Cardinals. As the bird was seen as it perched in the lower limb of a young hackberry at some distance from my home, it was not possible to observe it later. My second experience with a Cardinal occurred in the summer of 1936. On July 30th a tail-less juvenile, out of the nest only two or three days was rescued from a boy who had caught it before it could fly and had kept it. As it was not possible to restore it to its parents, the baby bird was raised by hand, allowing her all the freedom she desired but often placing her in a canary cage for feeding. On August 15th, when about a month old, she began soft, little

warblings similar to that heard in 1935. At that time her beak was dark except for the lighter color beginning to show at the base of the upper mandible. After a month of lengthly warbling songs, she was noted using the "tuer" portion of adult song. On October 3rd, she had added the "woit" song to her repertoire and by this time her beak was almost entirely red. During late October and November she did not sing. She had acquired the habit of entering the banding traps and on cold nights was often brought indoors. She seemed to appreciate this and when at the kitchen door would fly immediately to the next room where the canary cage was kept. She readily bathed in the "bathroom" attached to the cage as the canary did in his. Her warbling commenced once more on December 15th. The same type of song was given as in October. Other Cardinals were heard singing nearby a little later in the month. In early January, "Reddie" as we called her and "Twiddie," the male canary, became much interested in each other, following one another about the room, facing each other on a window sill with beaks open, the canary quivering his wings, both making little clucking noises, the Cardinal occasionally gently pecking the canary. When outdoors, the Cardinal sang lengthy songs just outside the window. Late in January her songs were louder and sounded much like those of an adult. In February her songs were completely adult. When she was indoors, it was possible to hear her give a coaxing note at times. She showed restlessness; she began tearing paper. On March 1st when the casement window was opened for her, she flew immediately to a nearby shrub and attempted to break off twigs. She apparently was eager to begin spring duties of nest building but was never seen with a prospective mate. The female of an older pair of resident Cardinals chased her occasionally and in early April, this pair had selected the shrubs outside the window as their nest site so Reddie was not allowed to come there to roost or sing. She disappeared after a few days.

A Bronzed Grackle, also an orphaned nestling, was raised in 1936. He never was placed in a cage even for feeding and in spite of absolute freedom outdoors became very tame, remaining from May until October. He was brought to me on May 24th when about nine days old. In mid August he sang his first songs which sounded exactly like the typical squeaking adult songs of his species although there were no others in the neighborhood at that time. By the 23rd he was singing at length from a perch on the peak of the house. About this time also, he began to notice the Cardinal, following her to her perch in a tree and going through a plumage display before her and sometimes pecking her. No songs were heard from him in September until the 12th but he used typical call notes. On September 16th, he again courted the Cardinal giving peculiar shrill calls for the first time which sounded like "eee eee" as he faced her, following her as she flew. At this time he also acquired the habit of singing and puffing out his feathers as he perched on my hand when he waited for his usual feeding. This habit replaced his former quivering of wings while waiting to be fed and continued until his disappearance on October 6th. His molt started late in July and when he left, he was in complete adult plumage. He had passed through a full molt but the Cardinal did not. She apparently retained her post-juvenal plumage but acquired some ruddy feathers on crown and body.

NASHVILLE, TENN., November 1937.

PINE SISKINS IN THE GREAT SMOKIES

By Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK, GATLINBURG, TENN.

The Pine Siskin *(Spinus pinus)* is of such rare occurrence in Tennessee that the following records and observations made during 1937 in the region of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park may be of some interest.

March 21: Several Siskins in the company of a large flock of Goldfinches were observed by the writer in Gatlinburg, along the Little Pigeon River. Upon checking over our lists of birds known to occur in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, it was discovered that this observation represented the first record of this species from within or near the park area.

March 22, 24, 30, 31: Siskins were again seen by the writer in Gatlinburg on these days. On March 30 well over 100 of the birds were observed in trees along the Little Pigeon River where catkins of the ironwood and the persistent seed-balls of the sycamore appeared to be their favored items of food. At times these birds proved to be very approachable. Some of them entered the shallow water along the river margin to bathe, and thereafter these individuals would alight in the nearby trees to preen their feathers. For the most part the birds were noisy and restless.

April 14: A few Siskins, along with some Goldfinches and Purple Finches were observed in the Park two miles south of the Gatlinburg-National Park boundary. The Siskins alighted on the ground in the immediate vicinity of a deserted building where some feeding was done.

July 2, 3: Messrs. W. M. Perrygo and C. Lingebach of the U. S. National Museum reported Siskins from the Cosby area in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park—in the immediate vicinity of the abandoned C. C. C. Camp.

October 15: A number of Siskins were observed by the writer near Indian Gap (elevation 5200 feet) in the Park. These birds were with a fairly large flock of Red Crossbills.

November 8: A flock of 30 to 40 Siskins were reported from the Gatlinburg area by Mr. Joseph Manly, Assistant Forester, Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Later in the day the writer saw a smaller flock of these birds in the place described by Mr. Manly.

November 13: A mixed flock of 10 Pine Siskins and approximately 20 Red Crossbills were observed at Camp H. A. Morgan (C. C. C.) in the Park. This camp is located close to the cross-mountain highway about four miles from Gatlinburg (elevation approximately 1700 feet). Both species of birds were seen feeding on the ground close to one of the buildings at a place over which rock-salt is occassionally strewn.

November 16: At least 200 Siskins were observed picking grit from a sand pile at Camp H. A. Morgan. The writer at one time stood within four feet of several members of this flock.

November 30: At least 100 Siskins at Camp H. A. Morgan. Of this number a flock of 30 to 40 birds alighted in one of the driveways and picked up particles of rock salt which had but recently been strewn there over the bare ground. Other members of the flock, in the company of several English Sparrows, were observed feeding on the straw-covered ground near the camp stables. From the 4800 foot elevation on the cross-mountain highway in the

Great Smoky Mountains National Park (Tennessee side) to Newfound Gap (5040 feet) on the state line, large flocks of Siskins were observed feeding on hemlock and red spruce seeds. Also from Newfound Gap and along the Clingman's Dome highway to the terminus of the road at Forney Ridge (6311 feet) many more wandering flocks were observed. An estimate of between 1000 to 2000 birds would be very conservative.

December 3: Along the Alum Cave Trail to Mt. LeConte Siskins were seen and heard many times, with a great concentration of the birds near Alum Cave. Some were heard on the very summit of LeConte (6593 feet), and again it would be conservative to estimate their numbers at well over 1000 birds. Spruce seed was apparently their main food item.

In the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, as was true over much of the eastern states, most of the plants bore an unusually heavy seed crop. This was particularly noticeable in regard to our conifers—the harvest of spruce, fir, and hemlock cones being the greatest in years. It is possible that this invasion of Pine Siskins may be correlated with this fact. Reports of these birds from elsewhere in Tennessee or the nearby states would be greatly appreciated.

SWIFT BANDING AT MEMPHIS—SIXTH SEASON

By Ben B. Coffey

As noted in *The Migrant* for December, 1936, we have trapped and banded Chimney Swifts *(Chaetura pelagica)* each fall, beginning in 1932. The results of our sixth season were disappointing, falling below both 1935 and 1936 in number of Swifts banded and in recoveries of local birds and those banded elsewhere. We banded a total of 2375 compared with 3900 and 2615 for 1935 and 1936, respectively. Between Sept. 16th and 21st we banded exactly 2,000, which gave us a better start than ever before. All we needed was to have one of the large flocks of 2,000 or 3,000 present use an accessible chimney but, although more time was spent in watching chimneys than ever before, we only secured 373. Two small flocks we failed to get—one after moving all our equipment out to the Colonial Country Club, due to an all-day rain, and another on the roof of Goldsmith's department store. On the latter occasion the high wind evidently kept the Swifts down the chimney so eventually the attempt was abandoned.

We succeeded in trapping at two "old" chimneys and two "new" chimneys this season. The former locations were the Oliver Farm Equipment (Sept. 18) and Southwestern University, Palmer Hall (Sept. 19 and Oct. 4). The new ones were at Adams and N. 2nd St. (Sept. 16)—later razed—and the Woman's Building at the Fairgrounds (Sept. 21), about one mile east of Idlewild School. Results were as follows:

Date	Area	New Birds	1934	1935	1936	1937	Foreign
Sept. 16	Uptown	727	....	5	15(5*)	....	....
Sept. 18	Uptown	214	....	2	7(1*)	....	1
Sept. 19	East	624	1	3	4	6*	1
Sept. 21	East	435	....	4	3	4(1*)	...
Oct. 4	East	373	2	2	4(2*)	7(2*)	1
	Totals	2373					

*Originally banded in uptown area.

The 1937 birds were repeats.

It was noted that at the uptown chimneys most of our 1936 returns were of birds banded at two eastern locations. This could be expected since 2334 of the 2615 Swifts banded last fall were tagged at those two places. But this year at one of these—Southwestern, Sept. 19 and Oct. 4, and at the Fairgrounds, Sept. 21—returns of birds banded uptown in 1934 and 1935 equalled returns from 1936, banded predominantly in the eastern section. From the 820 banded at Southwestern Oct. 1, 1936, only one return was secured out of 639 (Sept. 19) and one out of 389 (Oct. 4). This prompted an examination of the records on our local returns which total 138 to date. Eleven birds, or only 8 per cent were recaptured in the original chimney of banding. Failure to trap often at the same chimneys may be responsible for the percentage being so low but specific results such as detailed above do not indicate that any noticeable increase in this percentage would be obtained experimentally.

Among the eleven "homing" Swifts were three (of 466) banded at the U. S. Rubber chimney Oct. 5, 1935, retaken there in a flock of 245 on Aug. 31, 1936, and three (of 953) banded at the Continental Gin chimney Oct. 9, 1935, retaken in a flock of 20 there on Oct. 10, 1936. The latter small flock was worked because some banded Swifts were spotted and it is interesting further to note that of the seventeen banded there the latter date, three were retaken this year at Adams and Second Street. Only in 1935 were the same chimneys used often for trapping in the same season and no repeats were then secured at the original place of banding. A total of 49 repeats have been recorded and only 2 were retaken at the original chimney. These were both banded Sept. 19 and retaken Oct. 4 of this year at Southwestern University.

On several occasions immature birds, indicated by old primaries of the past summer, and adult birds, with new primaries as a result of the annual post-nuptial molt, were differentiated, but since much of our banding was done on week days when time was short, we made little effort to record separate band numbers for the young birds. Starting with our third flock this fall we followed the plan of using different sets of bands for immatures and for adults, emptying the opened bands, a hundred at a time, into separate boxes, prominently labeled. A tabulation of the composition of the last three flocks follows:

DATE	TOTAL	ADULT	IMMATURE	PER CENT IMMATURE
Sept. 19	633	243	390	61.6
Sept. 21	445	235	210	47.2
Oct. 4	386	108	278	72.0
Total	1464	586	878	60.0 Per Cent

Whether the average of 60 per cent would have been changed much if the composition of the two earlier flocks had been noted is problematical. We plan to record the immature Swifts separately in our future banding. A few birds are omitted from the tabulation as we overlooked checking 9 repeats from our earlier flocks and the two 1937 foreign returns.

Only 3 foreign birds were taken here. No. 11 from Quincey, Ill., was 36-149781 banded there and recovered here on Sept. 18. 35-119773, taken here Sept. 19 was banded Oct. 2, 1936, at Beloit, Wis., having thus been in

a flock with one of our 1935 birds reported there at that time. This is our first one at this end of the line but we had previously taken three of Prof. Welty's Swifts banded at Fairfield, Iowa, before he removed to Beloit College. On Oct. 4 we took No. 37-155100, banded by Mr. L. E. Hicks, Sept. 22, 1937, at Cuyahoga Falls in northeast Ohio.

The latter represented another new station for us and Dr. Hicks made it a complete "swap" by taking 36-7210, banded here, Oct. 12, 1935, at Portsmouth, Ohio, on Sept. 30 of this year. Portsmouth is on the Ohio River. Recoveries of Memphis birds elsewhere have been surprisingly low and those reported this year to date are tabulated below:

BANDED HERE	RECOVERED	AT
Sept. 30, 1935	May 23, 1937	Pepin, Wis. Caught and released.
Sept. 30, 1935	May 29, 1937	Pana, Ill. Found dead.
Oct. 5, 1935	Apr. 25, 1937	Guttenburg, Iowa. Caught.
Oct. 12, 1935	Sept. 30, 1937	Portsmouth, Ohio. Trapped and released.
Oct. 12, 1935	Oct. 15, 1937	Baton Rouge, La. Trapped and released.
Sept. 2, 1936	Oct. 15, 1937	Baton Rouge, La. Trapped.
Oct. 1, 1936	June 16, 1937	L'Islet, Quebec. Captured.
Oct. 8, 1936	May 29, 1937	Ashtabula, Ohio. Captured.
Oct. 8, 1936	Oct. 15, 1937	Baton Rouge, La. Trapped.
Sept. 16, 1937	Oct. 12, 1937	Baton Rouge, La. Trapped.
Sept. 16, 1937	Oct. 15, 1937	Baton Rouge, La. Trapped.
Oct. 4, 1937	Oct. 12, 1937	Baton Rouge, La. Trapped.

L'Islet is 1300 miles northeast of Memphis.

It will be noticed that 6 of our Swifts—one 1935, two 1936, and three 1937 birds—were trapped and released at Baton Rouge, La., this fall. Perhaps more so than any other Swift banders, were we glad to learn that Mr. George Lowery, Jr., Curator of the Louisiana State University Zoological Museum, had started trapping Swifts. On October 1, 12, and 15 he banded a total of 4500 of these birds. His location is a strategic one and should yield returns from all eastern North American and, being directly south of us, he should take our birds often. As previously reported, we had, until now, only two of our Swifts reported south of Memphis. Last year there were 29,112 Swifts banded in the United States.

In connection with the distant recoveries mentioned above, it will be of interest to refer to the map accompanying my previous article in *The Migrant* for December 1936. In closing I wish to present a revision of Table 4 of last year's summary, so as to include all records received up to now.

TABLE 4

RECOVERIES, YEARS AFTER BANDING

Years	0	½	1	1½	2	2½	3	3½	4	6
Foreign, at Memphis	3	4	6	1	6	1	2	1	2	1
Memphis, elsewhere	3	....	17	....	11	....	1	....	0	....
Memphis, at Memphis	..	....	105*	....	15	....	8	....	0	....
Totals	6	4	128*	1	32	1	11	1	2	1

* Number of 1st year returns larger proportionately due to larger number banded in recent years. The ½ years indicate Swifts banded in the spring.

MEMPHIS, TENN., December 1937.

THE ROUND TABLE

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: For the second straight year the annual Fall Field Day of the Memphis Chapter was held at the Shelby Forest Preserve, located in the northwest part of the county and embracing land in the bluff region and in the river bottoms. The day, Oct. 31, was perfect for such an outing and a creditable number attended. Only a nominal list of birds was made but two unusual species were included, namely—Blue and Snow Geese. Enroute, while at the Loosahatchie River bridge, the writer's party had the opportunity of watching a flock approach and pass almost directly overhead. It consisted of 9 Blue Geese and 7 Snow Geese. Later at another stop where most of the club were watching a Red-tailed Hawk, 17 Blue Geese passed over, almost as low as the others. Late that afternoon a flock of 8 Snows passed over Miss Wilma Keith and party at the north end of "the circle trail." (Further notes on Geese are given in the article following this.) Goldfinches were common, Cedar Waxwings were recorded for the first time this season, the usual species of Sparrows predominated, and about 100 Crows were seen moving westward late in the afternoon.—— White-throated Sparrows were first reported Oct. 10 and at three locations; Elphingstone even trapped a return—1. It was Oct. 14 before they appeared in the writer's yard. Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported on the 10th at Lynhurst by Dr. Counce.——An early morning hour in Overton Park, after a heavy rain, on Oct. 17 proved profitable to Fred Fiedler and the writer. A Brown Creeper, a Winter Wren, and 2 Phoebes were "first" fall records. Several inconspicuously marked warblers proved difficult to observe when first seen, but with about eight in all under study, they were determined to be immature male Chestnut-sided Warblers. A lone female Black-throated Green Warbler came within 3 feet of us. Four American Pipits were seen Oct. 10 on the mud flats at Mud Lake along with "peeps" and Yellowlegs. On Nov. 21 it was noticed that part of the levee had been burned over and a search there resulted in flushing about 30 Pipits. On Xmas census trips the last two years at Moon Lake, Miss. (40 miles south), much larger flocks were seen in similar situations.——Lakeview records continue of interest and are for (east to west) Horn Lake in Miss., Mud Lake, Miss.-Tenn., and the open water of the large "barrowpit" midway between these two lakes but south of the levee. White Pelicans appeared on the scene at Mud Lake as the late summer period of herons and shorebirds changed over to the fall season of ducks. Three Pelicans were approached closely and flushed several times the afternoon of Sept. 19. None were seen next day but two days later Whittemore and Simpson saw 12, 1, and 36. None were seen the 26th. Wood Ibis numbered 35, 13 and 15 on the 19th, 21st and 23rd, respectively. From 3 to 5 Snowy Egrets were present those dates. Moderate flocks of herons and shorebirds were still on hand Sept. 26 but on Oct. 10 we saw only 6 immature Little Blue Herons, 1 American Egret with 2 others flying over at roosting time, 2 Lesser Yellowlegs and 40 unidentified "peeps" for our last records. Of interest previous to this date were 10 Stilt Sandpipers on Sept. 19, 2 Dowitchers on Sept. 20 and 35 Caspian Terns on Sept. 26. This was the

second record for this area of the last two species. One of the Dowitchers had a very long bill compared to that of the other bird and it is possible that one or both were of the Long-billed subspecies instead of the Eastern race. No other Terns were seen this period.——A few Pintail and Blue-winged Teal and up to 60 Wood Duck were noted each trip, then on Oct. 10 a few each of several other species were seen. Large numbers of ducks were recorded Nov. 16, 21 and 25 and included Pintail, 7,500, 2,000, and 2,000; Mallard, 2,500, 1,500, and 1,500; Black Duck, 35, 50, 2; Gadwall, 50, 50 and 75 plus; Baldpate, 2, 15, and 12; Ring-necked Duck, 15, 200, and 0; Green-winged Teal, 0, 100, and 50; Shoveller, 0, 40, and 100 plus. A small number of Blue-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup and Wood Duck were on hand. On Nov. 21 a pair of Redheads were studied at close range on the large "barrow-pit"; this is our first positive field record for this species. Two female Hooded Mergansers were seen the same date, and on Horn Lake we made out about 16 Ruddy Ducks in with other species. A female Ruddy was recorded Nov. 25.——Hawks seen include 1 and 2 Marsh Hawks each trip, Duck Hawk on Sept. 23, 26, and Nov. 21; Osprey each trip until Oct. 10 (1) with highs of 8 on Sept. 19 and 5 on the 26th; Bald Eagle, an adult and an immature on Sept. 21 and an adult exactly two months later. A few Sparrow Hawks each trip, two records each of the Cooper's and Red-shouldered Hawks and 6 Red-tailed Hawks on Nov. 21 and 5 on Nov. 25, complete the record.—BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis, Tenn.

NOCTURNAL MIGRATION AT MEMPHIS: Supplementing notes on this subject in the Sept. *Migrant* (pp. 57 and 62) and relative to the influence of a city's lights in possibly causing transients to become confused and more voluble or to come down more within hearing distance, I might mention that it was not until we reached home about 10:30 P. M., Sept. 5, that we heard birds passing over. Previously we had been at Mud Lake, remaining after dark to investigate the roosting of Kingbirds and the presence of shorebirds, until about 9:30 P. M. Not a passing migrant was heard there but after driving home, we began to hear birds calling as they passed overhead. The number of Green Herons seemed unusual and were estimated at about one a minute for some time. The night of Oct. 13, 1937, was cold and slightly cloudy. At 9:00 and 9:10 moderate-sized flocks of geese were heard passing over home. We are located somewhat north of the center of Memphis, a half mile from the Sears-Roebuck building with a high tower section carrying large neon signs, and 4 miles from the downtown section which sits on the river bluff on the western edge of the city. We drove to town and listened from the 14th story of an office building from 9:35 to 10:00 without hearing any transients. We then drove along Riverside Drive, at the base of the bluff, making frequent stops to listen, but without results. At 10:30 we parked on the bluff at Vance Street for a half hour and heard 5 flocks of geese pass over. Smaller migrants—sparrows, thrushes, and warblers—could be heard frequently and one Green Heron was heard calling as it moved southward. Returning home we heard 2 more flocks of geese before midnight. Two nights later, Oct. 15, between 11:30 P. M. and 1:00 A. M., 2 flocks passed over home. Most of the geese heard while on the river bluff were Canada Geese ("honkers") but I believe that some of the other flocks were composed of Blue and Snow Geese, whose calls resemble the high-pitched

barks of fox terriers. As noted in "The Season" small numbers of these two species were seen in daytime, Oct. 31, which is about the usual time for their migration.—BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis, Tenn.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK NEAR MEMPHIS: As usual, the region south of Memphis, consisting of Mud Lake, Horn Lake Barrow Pits, and the surrounding territory, has yielded another rare record. On November 16, 1937, an American Rough-legged Hawk *(Buteo lagopus sanctijohannis)* was observed by a party consisting of John Pond and the writers. Our attention was first attracted by a large bird hovering over the south end of the barrow pits just west of the railroad and in Mississippi. Due to its size, its actions, and our distance from it we thought at first that it might be an Osprey, which species has been seen with regularity this fall in this vicinity. After hovering for at least a minute over the same spot, the hawk flew and perched on a telephone pole near the road. We were able to approach within twenty yards by automobile and, by remaining in the car, were able to study the bird for several minutes with 8-power binoculars. We at once recognized the bird as a large *Buteo*. Its size, light streaked throat, and very dark underparts were apparent. Positive identification of the bird as an American Rough-legged Hawk was made as it flew from its perch, displaying the white at the base of the tail. Its flight was low and sailing, somewhat after the manner of a Marsh Hawk. Later that day another hawk, presumably the same, was seen flying over Mud Lake, crossing the state line from Tennessee into Mississippi. The black patch at the bend of each wing could be seen easily. There is no question about this record. All these characteristics, together with the general contour and flight pattern of the hawk make this a positive sight identification. It was in the light phase of the species.

According to A. C. Bent (1937), the winter range of this species extends as far south as Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri, in the states north of Tennessee. There are only a few casual winter records south of this normal range. Two of these are from Louisiana, one in the spring of 1897 and another on April 6 and 7, 1903. In addition to these, there are several records from Texas and one from South Carolina. The only previous record of the Rough-legged Hawk in Tennessee is given by A. F. Ganier, for Dec. 22, 1934, near Nashville *(Migrant*, 1935, p. 13)—WENDELL WHITTEMORE and TOM SIMPSON, Dept. of Biology, Southwestern College, Memphis, Tenn.

BIRDS DESTROYING BAGWORMS: On July 26th last I had the pleasure of watching a group of Carolina Chickadees and Tufted Titmice clear an arbor vitae shrub of bagworms. The cocoons were so well wrapped about with the arbor vitae leaves that they were not noticeable until the caterpillars began to cut their way through the outer ends and in their struggle to pull themselves out, caused the twigs to which they were attached to move about. These movements must have attracted the birds for they flocked to the bush and hastened the exit of the caterpillars. The little upside-down Chickadees showed wonderful strength in their dangling position and they also gave evidence of how useful birds can be in destroying destructive insect pests.—ADINE MARSHALL, Clarksville, Tenn.

NOTES FROM MEMBERS OF THE CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER: During the last three months, some new birds have brought our Montgomery County list up to 182 species and the following observations of more than passing interest have come to hand. An early Piedbilled Grebe was seen on Red River on Sept. 26. A small number of this species and the Coot has been watched on the lake at Dunbar's Cave. Some Green Herons remained till Oct. 10. One spent the last four weeks of his stay in these parts with a Kingfisher at a shallow spring branch; probably a common liking for some choice food brought them together. A Black-crowned Night-heron was seen Nov. 25 and one on Dec. 5. We have another record of Snow Geese this year; they were seen over town and near White Oak Creek during the afternoon of Oct. 31, and as observers at both points counted between fifty and sixty of them, they may have seen the same flock. A Red-tailed Hawk, Sept. 13, made the mistake of flying close to a horde of Grackles and Starlings that were feeding in a cornfield. Thirty of the latter soon were after him, following each dodging turn of his with quick precision. After several hundred yards nine Crows took over the chase. Ospreys were seen Sept. 15-16. Two Wilson Snipe gave us a treat on the chilly afternoon of Dec. 5 by letting us come within ten feet as they stood in a pile of leaves surrounded by water. They seemed to trust in their coloring to escape detection. On Oct. 25, a remarkably late date for this spcies, the writer flushed a Yellow-billed Cuckoo out of the grass, where he had evidently been feeding on grasshoppers. A Short-eared Owl was brought to us recently by a hunter who related that, as he was passing through a sedge field, three Bob-White and this Owl, with a Bob-White in his talons, flew up together. His shot brought down Owl and victim. A Chimney Swift roost in a factory chimney on the outskirts of town continued late this year. Oct. 19 was the last day we saw the birds going in, but during a light rain in the afternoon of the 21st, the writer watched the usual number, about 150, circling high above it for ten minutes. Two days later a single bird was seen coming out of the chimney late in the evening and the last Swift was recorded near this site on Oct. 26. The Ruby-throated Hummingbirds found new feeding in the blooms of Burley tobacco, which is a new crop in this immediate section. On Sept. 10 two belated Barn-Swallows were seen, and on Sept. 18 we spotted a single Rough-winged Swallow among the evening flight of the Chimney Swifts over Cumberland River. We could make out this bird from quite a distance each time the group swarmed past, and had several good views of the markings. The Swallow stayed on with the last, as, darkness falling, the Swifts thinned out. A nice find on Oct. 9 was a Caroline Wren and a House Wren in the same cedar tree, with the bird student only six feet away. The House Wren obligingly gave samples of his song. Two prized Warbler records are Golden-winged Warbler, one immature male on Sept. 21, and Orange-crowned Warbler, several individuals staying in a weedpatch Oct. 16 to 21. The Orange-crowned were seen hanging in the heads of tall weeds in Chickadee fashion and appeared amazingly active. A pair of Maryland Yellowthroats, one of them a young male, was discovered in a dense blackberry clump on Oct. 12. The Wilson Warbler showed up in good numbers during the third week of Sept., but we have not a single Canada Warbler to report. Also missing on our lists this fall is the Scarlet Tanager. The last Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen on Oct. 16. Tree Sparrows were here already on Nov. 21; we met them at the same site

where they were first observed last January. As we associate this species with severe weather, their early arrival seems to have been a good indication of early winter. Fox Sparrows were noticed at their old stands from Oct. 22 on. Late in November they delighted us with their energetically whistled song, which is as crisp as frosty air.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville, Tenn.

KINGLETS DISPLAY THEIR CROWNS: In the chapter on these birds, on pages 221-222 of "Birds of America" (Garden City Pub. Co., Garden City, N. Y.) there appears the following story by John Burroughs:

"How does the Ruby-crowned Kinglet know that he has a bit of color on his crown which he can uncover at will, and that this has great charm for the female? During the rivalries of the males in the mating season, and in autumn also, they flash this brilliant ruby at each other. I witnessed what seemed to be a competitive display of this kind one afternoon in November. I was walking along the road, when my ear was attracted by the fine, shrill lisping and piping of a small band of these birds in an apple tree. I paused to see what was the occasion of so much noise and bluster among these tiny bodies. There were four or five of them, all more or less excited, and two of them especially so. I think the excitement of the others was only a reflection of that of these two. These were hopping around each other, apparently peering down upon something beneath them. I suspected a cat concealed beneath the wall, and so looked over, but there was nothing there. Observing them more closely, I saw that the two birds were entirely occupied with each other. They behaved exactly as if they were comparing crowns, and each extolling his own. Their heads were bent forward, the red crown patch uncovered and showing as a large brilliant cap, their tails were spread, and the side feathers below the wings were fluffed out. They did not come to blows, but followed each other among the branches, uttering their thin, shrill notes and displaying their ruby crowns to the utmost. Evidently it was some sort of strife or dispute or rivalry that centered about this brilliant patch."

On the afternoon of Nov. 29, in the Tuscumbia bottoms near Corinth, in a thicket of cane, brambles and tall weed stalks, I saw Mr. Burrough's Kinglet performance repeated down to the last minute detail. The antics of the little actors, their heads aflame with brilliant feathers that covered them, were truly startling. Like Burroughs, I was lead to them by their peculiar low lispings and pipings. Now, what was the cause of this stirring little pantomine? Shall we say it was an exhibition of the age-old antipathy that one male of a species has for another and always evinced during the breeding season? Such jealousy would hardly be seasonable on a cold day in November. More likely it was in reality a playful exhibition of mock-combat, such as we often see among Crows and even among the young of domestic fowls, or else an inherent urge of young males to stage a premature plumage display. In the case that I witnessed, all told the most interesting bit of bird life that has come under my observation, peace was restored only after one of the belligerents departed the scene for a distant part of the woods. The other one rejoined his companions.—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

NOTE: An instance of plumage display in autumn is that of a young Grackle, described by Mrs. Laskey on page 68 of this issue.—EDITOR.

MARSH HAWK AND CROWS PLAY GAME OF TAG: On the afternoon of October 11th, while driving my car along a road in Robertson County, I noticed a flock of about 15 Crows in a field near the road. As I came opposite, I stopped the car to watch a Marsh Hawk which was flying about leisurely in their midst. I was then treated for the next ten minutes to a very interesting demonstration of mock-combat between the two species. While the hawk would be soaring about, low over the field seeking quarry, a half dozen crows would rise above him and then sweep downward at him. No actual blow was struck, either because the crows were not angry or because the hawk artfully "side-stepped" his mischievous adversaries. After two or three of these demonstrations the hawk would reverse the play, at times chasing a Crow through the air for some 50 to 75 feet and then passing by him in swifter flight. The hawk alit in a tree among some of the Crows while others fed on the ground. After a few minutes, some of the latter flew aimlessly about and then came to the tree and "rushed" the hawk into the air. He circled about and finally moved several hundrd yards from where the Crows were feeding, then leisurely came back and drove a half dozen of them from the tree top. The play began again and continued until a pedestrian crossing the field caused all of the birds to move on. The Crows were "cawing" and "talking" good naturedly all thru the melee. There was no viciousness in their attack and no anger in their calls, as would have been the case with an owl, so the whole affair was evidently a demonstration of play. Playfulness among animals is largely confined to the young and it is probable that the hawk and at least some of the Crows were young of the year.—ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville.

BIRDS AT PLAY: Late this afternoon I observed a Sparrow Hawk, half a dozen Pigeon, and some eight or ten Starlings fly over and around the roof of a four-story brick building in the heart of Corinth's business district. Under the roof of this building, near the upper windows, ledges project. At these points all of the birds would light, and on the roof too, then dip down low over the streets. The hawk darted swiftly as though chasing the others, but as a matter of fact he made no real effort to attack any of them. All seemed to be playing together. The pigeons tried to drive the hawk away, but he paid no attention to them. At last he did leave, and the last I saw of him he was half a mile southward.——Around this same structure the Starlings have been roosting and nesting for some two or three years. There is a small colony there the year round. Three miles from town, at a farm place, Starlings have taken over a large Martin box; they have been there two years.—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

MY SECOND YEAR OF BIRD BANDING: The results of my first year's banding were given in the March issue. In the fall of 1936 my traps were so badly damaged by the neighborhood dogs that I found it necessary to confine my bird feeding and trapping to a second story balcony at the apartment. Here the Grackles came, as in the preceding winter but not the Starlings that had flocked around my traps during that cold January of 1936. On Feb. 21, 1937, I trapped a Bronzed Grackle, banded May 4, 1935, at Cincinnati, Ohio, by C. J. Goetz; this is my first foreign recovery. In April, I captured two Blue Jays which I had banded the previous July and in May, two Catbirds also banded the previous summer.——On July 24, 1935,

I banded one of a pair of Chimney Swifts that were nesting in the chimney of the log cabin out in the country. On May 12, 1936, this Swift came down the same chimney, nesting there again that year. Swifts were again nesting in this chimney in June, 1937, but they were unbanded.——The Biological Survey has notified me of 12 recoveries, 6 of which were of Starlings and Grackles killed in or near Pulaski, within a month after their banding in 1936. Others, were a Robin banded in April, 1936, and found injured near here in June, 1937; a Bronzed Grackle banded here Jan. 16, 1936, and caught April 20, 1936, near Gladeville, Tenn., and four Starlings captured at distant points as follows: one banded Jan. 10, 1936, was killed at Coshocton, Ohio, May 8, 1936; one banded here Jan. 7, 1936, was found dead Nov. 16, 1936, at Vienna, Ohio; one banded here Jan. 30, 1936, was shot April 26, 1937, at Wilbur, W. Va., and the fourth, banded here Dec. 28, 1935, was shot on May 5, 1937, at Canton, Ohio.——I have been impressed with the fact that, although I have seen one or more Cardinals within a few yards of my traps every day since I began banding, it was not until my 18th month that I was successful in banding one. Then, a male entered a tray trap through a funnel entrance when an English Sparrow was imprisoned in it. Later, a female entered a two-cell warbler trap which had entrapped an English Sparrow in the other cell. Neither one has repeated and I have banded only one other Cardinal.—SARAH OGLEVIE ROGERS, Pulaski, Tenn.

NIGHT FLIGHTS OF WILD GEESE: On October 13th of this year, Nashville experienced one of those cloudy misty nights with a very low ceiling when city lights cast a bright reflection over a large sky area. I heard the honking of Wild Geese at 7:30, 10:15, and 11 P. M. The following day many reports came to me from people who are not especially interested in migration data but who had heard the geese at various hours until midnight. Last year Mr. Abernathy saw geese flying over on Oct. 14th but the type of weather and the apparent confusion of the flocks by the city lights this year as they circled over it at a very low altitude made their flight known to a great number of people. At 8 A. M. on Oct. 31st I saw a flock of approximately 125 geese flying in five wedge shaped formations very high and in a south by west direction. At noon of the same day Mr. Abernathy saw a flock. A lady in Murfreesboro also reported seeing a flock on the 31st and on Nov. 1st and 2nd. On Nov. 9th the weather was again misty and cloudy as on October 13th. My neighbor heard geese flying over that night and Leo Rippy reported hearing them. Both records occurred between nine and ten o'clock. In Murfreesboro they were heard at various hours the same night as if they were circling around in confusion, and at dawn on the 10th a flock was seen flying over.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, Nashville, Tenn.

NOTE: The night operator of the filling station near the Union Depot at Nashville, reported to me that on Oct. 13, between 8 and 11 p.m., the geese flew low over his place several times and he was able to identify most if not all of them as Snow Geese. At Lewisburg on Oct. 31, 3 flocks were reported by T. O. S. members while on a field trip there. Mr. Sam Williams of Eagleville reported 4 flocks there the same day. More geese have been reported this fall than in many years. Most of them will spend the winter on the extensive marshland refuges along the Louisiana coast.—EDITOR.

A RECORD FLIGHT OF WILD GEESE AT NASHVILLE: A record flight of geese passed over Nashville on the night of Oct. 13, 1937. The clamor of migrating flocks was heard over many sections of the city for several hours, and next morning's paper gave the occurrence prominent mention. The following records will serve to picture the flight as observed at home in the western suburbs of the city. At least a dozen flocks passed over this one point before midnight. The first group arrived at 8:35 p.m., with a second following ten minutes later, and a third passing over at 9:55 p.m. All of these flocks were very noisy and seemed to be quite large. At 10:35 p.m. a group passed by somewhat to the westward of the house. In ten minutes a small flock flew over. Thereafter others passed with great regularity, at about five minute intervals, until about 11:15 p.m. They gave the effect of a parade of geese, with groups following one another closely. Soon after one flock had passed out of hearing over the hills to the south, another would be heard approaching from the north. Some of these groups were noisier than others, and several gave the impression of flying at a greater height than their companions. The last flock passed just before midnight. Reference to notes shows that this was the largest flight of geese recorded in twenty years personal experience in this vicinity. At least four times as many flocks were heard on this night as on any previous night of record. The migration was also unusually early, equalling the previous record of Oct. 13, 1925. It was at least ten days earlier than normal, as the bulk of the fall records occur in the last week of October and the first two weeks of November.

Naturally, one seeks an explanation of such an exceptional occurrence, and a note in a current publication seems to give a clue. C. F. Walker (Bird-Lore, 1937, p. 473), reports, "A large and unusually early flight of geese . . ." at several points in western Ohio on Oct. 12-13, and states, ". . . the evidence indicates that Blue Geese made up by far the greater part of the flocks." This species is known to spend the winter along the coast of Louisiana, and if a line be drawn from the Ohio area to that region it will lie across Middle Tennessee. This fact and the close sequence of dates suggests that the flight which passed over western Ohio was the same one which attracted so much attention at Nashville. A few Blue Geese are known to migrate through Middle Tennessee, but the majority are believed to travel closer to the Mississippi River. If their normal route were shifted over Nashville they would probably appear in large numbers, and we should have a record breaking flight of geese. Such an occurrence might happen once in a score of years, and it seems probable that this is just what took place this fall. Several times efforts were made to see the birds, which sounded so close overhead, but suburban skies were too dark to permit this, and their identity could not be made out. The flight call notes of Blue Geese are unknown to the writer, but it can truthfully be said that the calls heard during this flight were not suggestive of the familiar Canada Goose.—HARRY C. MONK, Nashville, Tenn.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS: On the next four pages we present readers with four fine bird pictures sent in by members. Page (79), An American Egret that has just fed its nestlings, is shown in this beautiful photo taken in the top of a tall cypress in the Reelfoot Lake "Cranetown", by Karl Maslowski of Cincinnati; (80) A Brown Pelican fishing in Norris Lake, Tenn., on June 6 and 500 miles away from its Gulf Coast home, requires the evidence of this picture and George Foster's affirmation as given in the Round Table of this issue. The small sketch is drawn from Audubon's painting; (81) A parent Flicker, preparing to feed its hungry youngster, in a rustic nesting box, has here been cleverly photographed by Miss Mabel Slack of Louisville, Ky., and finally, (82), Dr. H. S. Vaughn of Nashville shows how a nest and eggs of the Prairie Horned Lark looked on a cold day in March in a bare cornfield. This nest was described in *The Migrant*, 1931, p. 31.

American Egret and young

By Karl Maslowski

A Brown Pelican
at Norris Lake

Flickers

A RECORD OF THE GOSHAWK: I wish to place on record the taking of one of these birds *(Astur a. atricapillus)* near Sycamore, 16 miles northwest of Nashville, Tenn., on Oct. 19, 1918. The bird was shot by Mr. A. P. Jackson and was prepared in the form of a skin by the writer who found it to be in lean condition. This large grey cousin of the Cooper's Hawk is a bird of the far north and is but rarely found south of the Ohio river in winter. The present record is the only one for the State and through some error, was left out of my 1933 list of the birds of Tennessee.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville,

A GRINNELLS WATER-THRUSH NEAR CLARKSVILLE: On Sept. 26, 1937, while on a canoe trip down Red River and 5 miles east of Clarksville, Tenn., I collected the only Water-thrush seen on the two-day journey. Its identity has been confirmed by Dr. H. C. Oberholser of the U. S. Biological Survey as *Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis* and is the first Tennessee record of this western subspecies. This form closely resembles the Northern Water-thrush *(S. n. noveboracensis)* but typical specimens average larger. However the present specimen was smaller but the unspotted throat was present. Taking this same trip on Oct. 3-4 last year, our group (Dr. Pickering, Mr. Clebsch and his sons) recorded no Water-thrushes. A specimen of the Northern Water-thrush was taken by me near Nashville on Aug. 21, this year; a very early date and of interest also in that the bird was not near water.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville, Tenn.

LATE NESTS FOR 1937: Fourteen August and September nests are recorded in and near banding and sub-banding stations in Nashville. This data has been obtained with the help of Mr. M. S. Carter, Mr. E. D. Schreiber, J. B. Calhoun, F. Lawrence, A. McMurray, and Wm. Simpson. Bluebird: Aug. 26—three nestlings (10 days old); Sept. 2—four nestlings (8 days old). Cardinal: Aug. 4—one nestling; Aug. 7—three nestlings (8 days old). Catbird: Aug. 10—three nestlings. Dove: Aug. 20—Parent brooding (nest not examined); Sept. 7—Two large squabs. Robins: Aug. 6—three young left nest; Aug. 21—parent feeding two fledglings; Aug. 22—two young left nest. Mockingbird: Aug. 4—Three nestlings; Aug. 15—One just out of nest. Bewick's Wren: Aug. 1—Five young leaving nest. Carolina Wren: Sept. 4—four young left nest.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, Nashville, Tenn.

LATE CHIMNEY SWIFT RECORDS AT NASHVILLE: Watching a Chimney Swift roost in Centennial Park during October yielded an unusually late date of departure this year. On the 24th at least 1000 birds entered this roost, but two days later this number had dwindled to about 125. On the 28th just one bird returned and entered the chimney alone, after flying silently about the vicinity for twelve minutes. On succeeding nights one Swift returned and went to roost, until Oct. 31, when the bird flew away in the dusk, and was not again seen. This last straggler was always silent and might have escaped notice but for the special watch kept for it. There are at least two later dates for the Nashville region. One was observed about 11 a. m., Nov. 6, 1925, flying over Knapp Farm, by Dr. J. M. Shaver, who kindly gave permission for use of the record here. About 2 p. m. of the next day, Nov. 7, 1925, the writer saw two Swifts flying over Tyne Road in a general southwesterly direction. These

birds kept close together, and flew at a steady pace, in a very direct manner. They were several hundred feet above the road, easily clearing the neighboring hills, and flew into the face of a brisk wind and shower of rain. At about the same time Miss Eloise McCorkle, then a student of Peabody College, saw two Swifts flying southward past the campus at Dixie Place. The two localities mentioned are about five miles apart in a general north and south line, and this fact, together with the very late date, suggests that the same birds were involved in the two observations.—HARRY C. MONK, Nashville, Tenn.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A cold mid-October caused most of our Swifts to leave Nashville before that time this year though Oct. 22 is about our average "last date." A few continued to roost sporadically at the above place and at a residence at 929 Third Ave., S. The latter, visited on the evenings of Oct. 18, 21, 26, 27, 29, and 30, showed 700, 34, 100, 0, 0 and 0 respectively. On Oct. 23 the temperature ranged between 32 and 45 degrees and the morning of the 24th it was 29 degrees; temperatures normally too cold for Swifts.

THE SEASON AT KNOXVILLE: First record of the season for Little Blue Herons was on July 6, on Lake Andrew Jackson, but the 6 birds left within a week; probably Norris Lake proved a better attraction. Two Great Blue Herons that have lived around Lake Andrew Jackson for the past three years (that covers my time of observations) were present on Oct. 24. Following one of these birds, in its slow flight across the country, was a smaller heron, possibly a locally raised young. The Green Heron population of this lake averaged 8 or 9 during the summer though at times more were seen. On Aug. 21 we recorded 9, but on the next trip, Sept. 19, none were found. However on Sept. 26 we found one there, but paid no particular attention to it because we had just located two Least Bitterns—our first record for the lake. It was getting late for Green Herons on Oct. 2, so when we found one that day, in the brush along the lake's edge, we followed and found that it was crippled. It made two short flights however and went into the woods for refuge. It was not found on Oct. 10, 24, 31, or Nov. 7, but on the Club's regular field trip to the lake on Nov. 21, one party (Dr. Earl Henry, Miss Mary Beard, Miss McGriff and Chas. Baird) flushed a Green Heron twice that showed no signs of injury. Shorebirds were very scarce this season both locally and at Careyville lake; only the Solitary and Semipalmated Sandpipers being reported during the entire late-summer and fall period. A Lesser Scaup was found on July 25 on Careyville lake in ragged condition but though loathe to fly, was able to do so. On this trip we also saw the Little Blue Heron and 7 Amer. Egrets. Marsh Hawks, seen on Aug. 22 and 29 by Mr. Ogden, were early dates for this species. A Sora Rail, recorded on Oct. 3 at Island Home Bird Sanctuary on the occasion of the Fall Census, was a new bird for the Sanctuary list. A Barn Owl was also observed in the Sanctuary, on Nov. 12 by Mr. Ijams. It was at the feeding shelf and was discolored with soot. The Grasshopper Sparrow is far more common here in summer than one would at first suspect; in the grassy valleys throughout the county (Knox) it can be located with ease when one knows the song. The Bachmans Sparrow likewise is most often betrayed by its song but these birds are almost rare. The Norris area yields the most records for this species. There, in the town of Norris on July 25, Foster and I watched the pair that has nested nearby for the past two years but were unable to find the 1937 nest. Another was heard between Norris townsite and the dam and

4 more were heard on this date near Doak's Creek landing east of LaFollette. On July 31, a Bachmans was heard late in the afternoon on the Grainger State Game Preserve. Tree Swallows on Oct. 24, over Careyville lake, was a very late date. A Catbird on Oct. 22 and Swifts on Oct. 21, were last dates for these. Starlings, Grackles and Crows have been present in larger flocks than usual.—W. M. WALKER, Knoxville, Tenn.

LEAST BITTERN NEAR KNOXVILLE: The Least Bittern, which is a very rare summer resident in East Tennessee, generally migrates southward about the middle of September. This year, September 26, the bird was seen at Lake Andrew Jackson by the writer and Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Walker. Having just started around the edge of the lake, we were passing a small inlet bordered by a line of thin willows when suddenly Mr. Walker exclaimed "Least Bittern." We stopped and looked intently. In a moment we saw the small Bittern snaking its way through the willows about two feet off the ground. It seemed to have a miraculous power of slipping swiftly through the willows. The bird moved so quickly that suddenly we lost it from view. We then proceeded quickly to the other side and to our great surprise another one was flushed. Both were feeding in the willows and we were able to study these two birds at a distance of less than ten feet. They seemed unconcerned as to our presence and we watched them as they perched on the willow twigs below the general leaf line of the tree. The buff wing-patches and the black back were very conspicuous on this smallest of the Bittern family. The lake was later visited on October 2nd and 10th and one bird was observed at the same inlet each time. No trip was made on October 16th or 17th but when the lake was visited the following week no Bittern was to be found.—CHARLES [illegible], Knoxville Tenn.

A BROWN PELICAN IN EAST TENNESSEE: On June 6, 1937, one of these birds *(Pelecanus o. occidentalis)* was observed on Norris Lake, about twenty miles north of Knoxville, Tenn. Mr. I. G. Tupfer, of the T. V. A. Forestry Division, observed the bird sitting in a chestnut oak tree on Round-top Island and bringing his boat near the tree, he succeeded in taking two photographs of it. One of the pictures is reproduced in this issue and leaves no doubt of the bird's identity. There is a previous record of the Brown Pelican for Tennessee, that of one observed on May 17, 1936, south of Memphis, by Frank McCamey and recorded in *The Migrant* for June, 1936, p. 38. As stated by him, both birds were probably post-breeding season wanderers from the Gulf coast where these Pelicans nest in December.—GEORGE FOSTER, Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio.

Our readers are urged to get together their copies of *The Migrant* for 1935, 1936 and 1937 and have them bound together in one volume. It will make a nice sized book about 1½ inches thick and the binding need cost no more than a dollar. Missing numbers can be supplied. A vast fund of information is included on the birds of Tennessee and with the aid of the species index in this issue, all that has been written of any species during the last three yers can readily be found.

During 1937, *The Migrant* published 19 main articles, 68 short articles in the Round Table, 19 illustrations and 28 miscellaneous news-items. These were contributed by 37 members, not counting those reporting Xmas census.

BIRD BANDING: In looking over *Bird Banding Notes* (issued by the U. S. Biological Survey) for Dec. 1937, we find in the long list of bird banders given, the name of Mr. Ben B. Coffey of Memphis, fourth from the top of the list. Mr. Coffey's commendable total for the year ending June 30, 1937, was 8693 birds. The bulk of his bands were placed on Chimney Swifts and on young Herons in the northeast Mississippi heronries. Well up in the list is the name of Mrs. Laskey of Nashville, who during the year was responsible for 2039 bands placed on 76 species of birds. (Due to some error in the above publication she was credited with a lesser number.) Other Tennessee banders in the list, who have banded between 100 and 300 birds each, were G. N. Bondurant of Bristol, J. B. Calhoun of Nashville, Mrs. Sam H. Rogers of Pulaski and Mrs. Lillian H. Govert of Memphis.

An interesting note of local interest from the above publication is that of a Chimney Swift, banded Sept. 28, 1930, near Chattanooga by Prof. Wyman R. Green and captured alive and released, in a nest with two young birds at Chatham, Mich., about July 7, 1936. Another remarkable record is that of a Cedar Waxwing, banded April 14, 1935, near San Francisco, Calif., and killed March 29, 1937, just south of the Tennessee line near Huntsville, Ala.

CHAPTER MEETING DATES AND NEWS

The NASHVILLE Chapter of the T. O. S. will make its Christmas census on Sunday, Dec. 26 and on Jan. 9, the annual census of Montgomery Bell State Park. Evening meetings will be held as usual after the first of the year, at 7:30 p.m. Monday evenings in the S-R Building of Peabody College, on these dates: Jan. 10, 24, Feb. 14, 28, March 14, 28, April 11, 25, etc. G. B. Woodring is president and Mrs. John Caldwell is secty.——MEMPHIS; meetings are held every other Monday evening at "The Pink Palace" Museum in Chickasaw Gardens, the schedule of dates being Jan. 3, 17, 31, Feb. 14, 28, April 11, 25, etc. Tom Simpson is president and Mrs. T. I. Klyce, 681 Shrine Bldg, is Secty.——KNOXVILLE; A Christmas census is planned for The Smokies on Dec. 19 and another at Knoxville on Dec. 26. Evening meetings will be held at "Flowercraft" (415 W. Church Ave.) at 7:30 p.m., on Jan. 5, Feb. 2, Mar. 2, April 6, May 4 and June 1. Field trips are scheduled for the third Sunday in each month to points yet to be decided on. Dr. Earl Henry is pres. and Mrs. Frank Leonhard is secty.——CLARKSVILLE; Meetings are held every two weeks at the homes of members, the dates being on Tuesdays, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 25, Feb. 8, 22, March 8, 22, April 5, 19, etc. Dr. C. F. Pickering is pres. and Alfred Clebsch is secty.——The BLUEGRASS CHAPTER plans a Christmas census at Columbia on Sunday, Jan. 2, and a spring outing in April. Dan R. Gray, Mt. Pleasant, is pres. and Mrs. Sam H. Rogers of Pulaski is secretary.

The annual meeting of the (national) Wilson Ornithological Club will be held at Indianapolis, Ind., on Dec. 27 and 28th. A splendid program is assured and it is hoped that a number of our members can attend. The A. O. U. Charleston meeting, attended by Mrs. Laskey and Messrs. Calhoun, Ganier, Monk and Shaver, was reported a most enjoyable meeting.

NOTICE: Articles for publication in *The Migrant* should be addressed to Mr. Ben B. Coffey, Editor, 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis. Dues, subscriptions and correspondence relating to membership, should be sent to Mr. Alfred Clebsch, Secty-Treas., 838 Gracey Ave., Clarksville, Tenn. 1938 dues become due and payable on Jan. first; your prompt remittance will help.

THE MIGRANT

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"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough,
it is not necessary to go beyond it."

THE MIGRANT CHANGES EDITORS

ANNOUNCEMENT: In accordance with a request made by Mr. Albert F. Ganier, I am accepting his resignation as Editor with the completion of this issue, i.e. of volume 8. Our retiring Editor gave us notice of his intentions last spring and meanwhile has made arrangements for the continuance of our little magazine. During his connection with *The Migrant*, Mr. Ganier has built it up to a point where we believe it to be the best of the state or local bird journals. In doing so he has devoted a great deal of time to the work and through it, has been the chief means of welding together an enthusiastic State-wide organization. He is due our sincere thanks for all of his efforts. To the post of Editor, I am appointing Mr. Ben B. Coffey of Memphis, well known to all of our readers. The duties of Treasurer will be added to the Secretaryship now held by Mr. Alfred Clebsch of Clarksville. I have appointed Mr. Ganier to the office of Curator, a post he has held from 1915, except for the years when he was President and Editor. These appointments will hold until the May elections.—MERRILL S. CARTER, President.

FELLOW MEMBERS: In the appointment of Mr. Coffey as Editor, the T.O.S. is indeed fortunate and since your retiring Editor knows him better than most of you, he wants to tell of some of his many qualifications that fit him for his new post. First, and most important, he has had a broad field experience with the birds of this State; he is a man who keeps full written notes of his observations afield; he has an excellent ornithological library and knows his books; he is in touch with the other bird journals and will doubtless follow the trend; he is a stickler for accuracy, yet as a writer is capable of imparting a human, personal touch in tune with the birds themselves; he knows something of good printing and also knows how to make both ends meet, and finally, he is "a bear" for work, having a relentless ability to put over his undertakings. The writer places himself at our new Editor's service. He feels sure that all of our members will rally to assist both he and Mr. Clebsch, our worthy secretary, who has had added to his duties those of Treasurer. As retiring Editor, I take this occasion to thank the Staff and our members, one and all, for their past loyal cooperation. My retirement is to enable me to concentrate on the preparation of a comprehensive treatise of the birds of Tennessee. In this task I solicit the assistance of all T.O.S. members and will write more of these plans at a later date.—ALBERT F. GANIER.

INDEX TO THE MIGRANT

FOR 1937—VOLUME 8.

MARCH PAGE

1. "Some Observations on the Raven," by Bruce P. Tyler 1
"Bird Banding Brevities—No. 10," by Amelia R. Laskey 2
"One Year of Bird Banding," by Sarah Oglevie Rogers 4
"C-h-a-t," by Benj. R. Warriner 6
"Annual Christmas Census" (from 11 localities, 1936), by Members 7
"Tennessee's Wildwood Parks," by Albert F. Ganier 10
The Round Table: The Season at Memphis; LeConte's Sparrow in Memphis area; A trip to Sulphur Well (heron nests in "Big Slough"); Bald Eagles near Paris; Two incidents (drama in bird life); A winter list from Winchester; Christmas bird census at Chattanooga; The Season at Knoxville; Notes from Norris Lake; Tree Sparrows at Clarksville; Pipits near Springfield; Chapter meeting dates; Editorials 14-20

JUNE

2. "A May Day with the Marsh Birds," by Dan R. Gray, Sr. 21
"Water Birds on a Temporary Lake," by Alfred Clebsch, Sr. 23
"Summer Birds of Pickett Forest," by Albert F. Ganier 24
"Notes on the Water Birds of Norris Lake," by George Foster, Jr. 28
"Bibliography for 1936,"—papers pertaining to Tennessee birds 29
"Building Lakes in Tennessee," quoted from R. A. Wilson 30
"Our Illustrations"—Nests, field trips, Chimney Rock 31-34
The Round Table: Golden Eagle in Mississippi; Two Snowy Owl records; Notes from the Clarksville Chapter; Spring notes from Corinth; Late migration of the Brown Thrasher; A Cowbird's error; A Blue-winged Warbler nest near Nashville; Black-throated Blue Warbler at Nashville; Olive-sided Flycatcher habits; Photographing a Vulture; Notes from Wheeler Dam; Notes from Murfreesboro; Red-backed Sandpiper at Knoxville; An Olive-sided Flycatcher in the Smokies; Prothonotary Warblers (at Knoxville); The Season at Knoxville; A Woodcock at high altitude in Great Smoky Mountains National Park; The Reelfoot Cranetown; Editorial chat 35-44

SEPTEMBER

3. "Mississippi Kites at home," sketch by Albert F. Ganier ..... opp. 45
"Feeding and Nesting of the Mississippi Kite," by M. G. Vaiden 45
"Observations on Mixed Flocks in Autumn," by G. R. Mayfield 47
"A September Visit to Reelfoot Lake," by Chas. F. Pickering 49
"Bird Banding Brevities—No. 11," by Amelia R. Laskey 51
"The Ospreys Build a Nest," by Wm. M. Walker 53
"The Audubon Museum at Henderson, Ky.," by the Editor 54
"Eastern Hawks," a plate of flight patterns by R. T. Peterson 56
The Round Table: The Season at Memphis; Notes on the bird life of Reelfoot Lake; A canoe trip on Cumberland River; Bird roosts in Nashville; Notes from the Clarksville Chapter; Nocturnal migration notes; A Cardinal feeds a young Cowbird; A Golden-winged Warbler (at Nashville); Sparrows rob a Robin; Blackbird roosts on Reelfoot Lake; Night singing of the Brown Thrasher; Upland Plovers at Murfreesboro; A Ring-billed Gull on the Cumberland; The Memphis Museum of Natural History and Art; T. O. S. Chapter meeting dates; Editorial chat 57-66

DECEMBER

4. "Notes on the Songs of Immature Birds," by Amelia R. Laskey 67
"Pine Siskins in The Great Smokies," by Arthur Stupka 69
"Swift Banding at Memphis—Sixth Season," by Ben B. Coffey 70
Four Portraits of Bird Life, by Members 81-84
The Round Table: The Season at Memphis, 73; Am. Rough-leg Hawk near Memphis, 75; Birds destroying bagworms, 75; Notes from Clarksville, 76; Kinglets display their crowns, 77; Marsh Hawk and Crows play game of tag, 78; Birds at play, 78; A second year of bird banding, 83; Night flights of wild geese, 83; Wild geese at Nashville, 84; A Goshawk record, 85; Grinnell's Water-Thrush recorded, 85; Late nests in 1937, 85; Late Chimney Swift records, 85; The season at Knoxville, 86; Least Bittern near Knoxville, 87; Brown Pelican in E. Tenn., 87; Bird-banding results, 88; Meeting dates, news, The Migrant changes editors, 88-89.
Index to volume 8, year 1937 90
Species Index for vols. 6, 7 and 8 (1935, 1936 and 1937) 91-96

SPECIES INDEX TO THE MIGRANT

VOLS. 6 TO 8, YEARS 1935, 1936 AND 1937

COMPILED BY A. F. GANIER

Anhinga (see Water Turkey).

Bittern. American *1935:* 17, 18, 22, 24, 27, 34, 39, 49—*1936:* 3, 37, 43, 47—*1937:* 40, 41.

Bittern. Least *1935:* 23, 24, 27, 34, 49, 52, 91—*1936:* 3, 38, 43, 45, 67, 73—*1937:* 21, 31, 37, 59, 87.

Blackbird. Brewers *1935:* 73—*1936:* 26, 38.

Blackbird. Redwing *1935:* 5, 8, 22, 36, 71—*1936:* 3, 12, 47, 53, 101, 103—*1937:* 8, 17, 21, 63.

Blackbird. Rusty *1935:* 5, 8, 13—*1936:* 12, 38—*1937:* 14, 40, 63.

Bluebird *1935:* 8, 62, 68, 83—*1936:* 11, 37, 86, 99, 102—*1937:* 8, 26, 85.

Bob-o-link *1935:* 50—*1936:* 6, 35, 49, 73—*1937:* 36, 37.

Bob-white. Eastern *1935:* 5, 7, 82—*1935:* 2, 3, 11, 34, 57, 84—*1937:* 7, 17, 29, 76.

Bunting. Indigo *1935:* 5, 68, 70, 73, 78—*1936:* 1, 6, 33, 36, 46, 49, 53, 86, 103—*1937:* 27, 29, 51.

Bunting. Painted *1935:* 53, 72.

Cardinal. Eastern *1935:* 1, 2, 8, 10, 11, 13, 36, 62, 68, 81, 84, 93—*1936:* 4, 12, 18, 22, 33, 47, 71, 102—*1937:* 3, 8, 20, 27, 36, 51, 62, 67, 85.

Catbird *1935:* 1, 3, 68, 81, 83, 90—*1936:* 2, 3, 6, 37, 46, 49, 58, 59, 85, 101—*1937:* 26, 36, 51, 62, 85, 87.

Cedarbird (see Waxwing).

Chat. Yellowbreasted *1935:* 2, 5, 68, 70, 73, 87—*1936:* 6, 37, 49, 53—*1937:* 6, 27.

Chickadee. Carolina *1935:* 8, 68, 71, 87, 92—*1936:* 3, 37—*1937:* 3, 8, 26, 47, 75.

Chickadee. Blackcapped *1936:* 58.

Chuck-wills-widow *1935:* 33, 72—*1936:* 1, 3, 6, 49, 71—*1937:* 27, 42.

Coot. American *1935:* 3, 7, 12, 14, 17, 30, 37, 49, 92—*1936:* 3, 11, 23, 31, 100—*1937:* 7, 19, 21, 23, 50.

Cormorant. Double-crested *1935:* 7, 17, 26, 37, 52, 91, 92—*1936:* 2, 3, 11—*1937:* 7, 19, 40, 41, 43, 59.

Cowbird. Eastern *1395:* 8, 11, 48, 61, 72—*1936:* 12, 32, 72, 101—*1937:* 8, 38, 60, 63.

Crane. Florida *1936:* 24.

Crane (see also Heron and Egret).

Creeper. Brown *1935:* 3, 8, 48—*1936:* 11, 58—*1937:* 8, 14, 50, 73.

Crossbill. Red *1936:* 57, 58—*1937:* 69.

Crow Blackbird (see Grackle).

Crow. *1935:* 8, 36—*1936:* 2, 3, 11, 35, 47, 100, 103—*1937:* 8, 17, 29, 50, 76, 78.

Crow. Fish *1936:* 68.

Cuckoo. Black-billed *1935:* 77—*1936:* 18, 35, 49, 58, 101.

Cuckoo. Yellowbilled *1935:* 2, 3, 68, 70—*1936:* 1, 35, 53, 60, 102—*1937:* 25, 57, 76.

Curlew. Hudsonian *1936:* 17.

Dickcissel *1935:* 35—*1936:* 6, 49—*1937:* 37, 60.

Dove Mourning *1395:* 7, 66, 68, 82, 91—*1936:* 2, 3, 11, 33, 34, 47, 59, 70, 71, 102—*1937:* 8, 25, 85.

Dove. Rock *1935:* 93.

Dowitcher. Eastern *1935:* 52—*1936:* 67, 68.

Dowitcher. Long-billed *1935:* 32—*1937:* 74.

Duck. Baldpate *1935:* 28, 39, 52—*1936:* 31, 48—*1937:* 7, 15, 19, 23, 28, 74.

Duck. Black *1935:* 7, 12, 14, 28, 91, 92—*1936:* 11, 31, 48, 100—*1937:* 7, 19, 28, 36, 74.

Duck. Bufflehead *1935:* 7, 14, 29—*1936:* 11, 37—*1937:* 15, 28.

Duck. Canvas back *1935:* 7, 18, 29, 92—*1936:* 11, 19, 24—*1937:* 7, 28.

Duck. Gadwall *1935:* 28, 92—*1936:* 11, 31—*1937:* 15, 19, 23, 28, 74.

Duck. Goldeneye, American *1935:* 7, 14, 29, 37, 49—*1936:* 11, 24—*1937:* 7,

Duck. Mallard, Common *1935:* 3, 7, 12, 28, 91, 92—*1936:* 11, 19, 31, 48, 67, 99, 100—*1937:* 7, 19, 28, 74.

Duck. Merganser, American *1935:* 14, 30, 19, 24— *1936:* 31—*1937:* 15, 19, 28, 41.

Duck. Merganser, Hooded *1935:* 7, 29, 49, 91—*1936:* 11—*1937:* 7, 40, 74.

Duck. Merganser, Red-breasted *1935:* 30, 37—*1937:* 23, 36.

Duck. Old Squaw *1935:* 29.

Duck. Pintail *1935:* 12, 28, 49, 91, 92—*1936:* 11, 19—*1937:* 7, 19, 74.

Duck. Redhead *1935:* 29—*1937:* 19, 28, 74.

Duck. Ring-necked *1935:* 7, 12, 14, 29, 37, 92—*1936:* 11, 19, 31, 99—*1937:* 7, 19, 28, 74.

Duck. Ruddy *1935:* 7, 12, 29, 39, 92—*1936:* 11, 19, 31—*1937:* 15, 28, 74.

Duck. Scaup, Greater *1935:* 49—*1937:* 23.

Duck. Scaup, Lesser *1935:* 7, 12, 14, 17, 29, 37, 91, 92—*1936:* 11, 19, 24, 31, 48, 99—*1937:* 7, 17, 19, 86.

Duck. Scoter, White-winged *1935:* 29.

Duck. Shoveller *1935:* 12, 14, 28, 34, 37, 39, 49, 92—*1936:* 31, 37—*1937:* 15, 19, 74.

Duck. Teal, Blue-winged *1935:* 12, 17, 22, 28, 34, 37, 52, 91—*1936:* 11, 31, 43, 48, 67, 70, 72, 73, 98, 102—*1937:* 7, 22, 23, 28, 41, 58, 74.

Duck. Teal, Green-winged *1935:* 28, 91, 92—*1936:* 11, 31, 73—*1937:* 7, 19, 28, 41, 74.

Duck. Wood *1935:* 7, 18, 22, 28, 49, 51, 71, 91—*1936:* 11, 47, 54, 67, 70 103,—*1937:* 7, 18, 50, 58, 60, 74.

Eagle. Bald *1935:* 12, 13, 18, 34, 51, 52, 93—*1936:* 3, 25, 46, 98—*1937:* 16, 19, 40, 50, 55, 74.

Eagle. Golden *1935:* 13, 36, 40, 49, 72, 93—*1936:* 4, 25, 46, 47—*1937:* 24, 27, 35.

Egret. American *1935:* 17, 27, 39, 49, 51, 91—*1936:* 37, 44, 54, 63, 67, 70, 72, 73, 99—*1937:* 30, 43, 49, 58, 59, 60, 73, 73, 81, 86.

Egret. Snowy *1936:* 44, 68—*1937:* 58, 73.

Field Lark (see Meadowlark).

Finch. Purple *1935:* 5, 8—*1936:* 12, 19, 99, 101—*1937:* 8, 18, 36.

Flicker *1935:* 8, 83—*1936:* 2, 8, 11, 35, 84—*1937:* 8, 25, 83.

Flycatcher. Acadian *1935:* 33—*1936:* 6, 35, 49, 98.

Flycatcher. Crested *1935:* 3, 20, 71—*1936:* 2, 3, 6, 8, 35, 38, 46, 46—*1937:* 26, 48.

Flycatcher. Least *1936:* 17.

Flycatcher. Olive-sided *1935:* 93—*1936:* 18, 74—*1937:* 39, 40.

Flycatcher. Yellow-bellied *1396:* 71—*1937:* 2.

Gallinule. Florida *1935:* 32—*1936:* 45—*1937:* 50, 59.

Gallinule. Purple *1935:* 22, 32, 34—*1936:* 38, 45, 47—*1937:* 21, 37, 59.

Gnatcatcher. Bluegray *1935:* 4, 68, 72—*1936:* 3, 6, 37, 46, 49, 59, 72—*1937:* 26, 42, 48.

Goldfinch. Eastern *1935:* 8, 72—*1936:* 1 12, 35, 53, 65, 86, 99, 101—*1937:* 8, 27.

Goose. Blue *1935:* 49, 80, 91—*1936:* 23, 37, 67, 88, 103—*1937:* 73, 74, 80,

Goose. Canada *1935:* 3, 28, 49, 78, 79, 80, 91, 94—*1936:* 11, 20, 31, 46, 88, 98, 99—*1937:* 7, 19, 61, 74, 80.

Goose. Snow *1935:* 80, 91—*1936:* 48, 87, 88—*1937:* 19, 36, 73, 74, 76, 80.

Goshawk *1937:* 56, 85.

Grackle *1935:* 93—*1936:* 2, 19, 101, 103—*1937:* 17, 18, 27, 60, 63.

Grackle. Bronzed *1935:* 10, 13, 62, 83—*1936:* 12, 35, 47, 57, 71—*1937:* 8, 29, 36, 68, 79.

Grackle. Purple *1935:* 5, 50, 73, 35—*1936:* 49.

Grebe. Amer. Eared *1935:* 93.

Grebe. Horned *1935:* 14, 32, 37, 70—*1936:* 11, 31—*1937:* 7, 15, 19, 29, 61.

Grebe. Pied-billed *1935:* 7, 12, 14, 26, 34, 37, 49, 91, 92—*1936:* 11, 17, 19, 38, 48, 72, 98—*1937:* 7, 14, 15, 41, 50, 76.

Grosbeak. Eastern Blue *1935:* 53—*1937:* 36.

Grosbeak. Rosebreasted *1935:* 5—*1936:* 6, 36, 46, 60, 86—*1937:* 76.

Grouse. Ruffed *1935:* 49—*1936:* 22, 34, 48, 58, 84—*1937:* 25.

Gull. Franklins *1935:* 32.

Gull. Bonapartes *1935*: 32, 50—*1936:* 31—*1937:* 29.

Gull. Herring *1935:* 7, 18, 31, 35, 50, 92—*1936:* 11, 20, 31—*1937:* 7, 8, 16, 19, 40.

Gull. Laughing *1935:* 31, 50—*1936:* 17.

Gull. Ring-billed *1935:* 7, 31, 38, 50—*1936:* 11, 31, 99—*1937:* 8, 19, 64.

Hawk. Amer. Rough-legged *1935:* 7, 13—*1937:* 56, 75.

Hawk. Broad-winged *1935:* 49, 53—*1936:* 25, 38, 54—*1937:* 25, 61.

Hawk. Coopers *1935:* 7, 36, 49, 53, 72, 73—*1936:* 11, 57, 58—*1937:* 7, 17, 25, 74.

Hawk. Duck *1935:* 18, 36, 49, 92, 92, 93—*1936:* 3, 5, 17, 58, 84—*1937:* 19, 25, 41, 50, 56, 74.

Hawk. Goshawk *1937:* 56, 85.

Hawk. Marsh *1935:* 7, 13, 49, 93—*1936:* 11, 20, 98—*1937:* 7, 18, 40, 61, 64, 74, 78, 86.

Hawk. Red-shouldered *1935:* 7, 18, 49, 53, 71—*1936:* 11, 25, 54, 58—*1937:* 4, 7, 74.

Hawk. Red-tailed *1935:* 7, 49, 73—*1936:* 3, 11, 35, 49, 58, 64, 84—*1937:* 7, 25, 74, 76.

Hawk. Sharp-shinned *1935:* 7, 36, 49—*1936:* 3, 47, 57, 58, 84—*1937:* 7.

Hawk. Sparrow *1935:* 7, 49, 71—*1936:* 3, 4—*1936:* 11, 35—*1937:* 7. 25, 78.

Heron. Black-crowned Night *1935:* 12, 27, 34, 38, 49, 92—*1936:* 37, 38, 43, 45, 100—*1937:* 24, 43, 76.

Heron. Yellow-crowned Night *1935:* 27, 34, 39, 53, 91—*1936:* 67—*1937:* 16, 42.

Heron. Great Blue (including Ward's) *1935:* 3, 7, 17, 26, 49, 52, 91—*1936:* 3, 11, 26, 44, 54, 67, 70, 71, 73—*1937:* 7 14, 16, 17, 19, 43, 49, 58, 59, 60, 61, 86.

Heron. Little Blue *1935:* 27, 49, 51, 91—*1936:* 44, 54, 63, 66, 67, 68, 70, 72, 73, 74, 100—*1937:* 7, 49, 58, 60, 73, 86.

Heron. Little Green *1935:* 3, 22, 27, 36, 49, 61, 91—*1936:* 3, 6, 34, 45, 46, 49, 53, 67, 68, 100—*1937:* 22, 23, 57, 60, 74, 76, 86.

Horned Lark (see Lark).

Hummingbird. Ruby-throated *1935:* 3, 72, 86—*1936:* 2, 6, 35, 46, 49, 84, 101—*1937:* 25, 76.

Ibis. White *1935:* 68.

Ibis. Wood *1935:* 27, 91, 67—*1937:* 41, 50, 58, 73.

Indigo Bunting (see Bunting).

Jay. Blue *1935:* 8, 21, 62, 68—*1936:* 10, 11, 35, 85—*1937:* 8, 26, 83.

Junco. Carolina *1936:* 12, 58, 86, 89, 91, 92—*1937:* 3.

Junco. Slate-colored *1935:* 5, 8, 90—*1936:* 4, 10, 12—*1937:* 3, 8.

Kildeer *1935:* 2, 8, 30, 33, 51, 61, 68, 72, 91—*1936:* 2, 3, 5, 11, 53, 59, 67, 68—*1937:* 7, 27.

Kingbird. Eastern *1935:* 3, 70—*1936:* 3, 6, 7, 35, 49—*1937:* 26, 57, 60.

Kingfisher. Belted *1935:* 8—*1936:* 5, 11, 35, 53, 60—*1937:* 8, 22, 25, 60, 76.

Kinglet. Golden-crowned *1935:* 4, 8, 78—*1396:* 11, 58—*1937:* 8, 73.

Kinglet. Ruby-crowned *1935:* 4, 8—*1396:* 11, 101—*1937:* 8, 14, 17, 36, 77.

Kite. Mississippi *1935:* 34, 53—*1936:* 17, 68—*1937:* 45.

Lark. Horned *1935:* 8—*1936:* 1, 21, 24—*1937:* 8, 18.

Lark. Prairie Horned *1935:* 3, 13, 33, 39—*1936:* 3, 11, 50, 84—*1937:* 27, 36, 84.

Lark. Northern Horned *1936:* 11, 25—*1937:* 8.

Loon. Common *1935:* 7, 14, 26, 37, 49, 70, 92—*1937:* 6, 23, 29.

Martin. Purple *1935:* 3, 12, 52—*1936:* 2, 6, 7, 20, 36, 37, 46, 49, 56, 100—*1937:* 15, 18, 26, 36, 42, 60.

Meadowlark *1935:* 8, 33, 68—*1936:* 12—*1937:* 8.

Mockingbird *1935:* 1, 2, 8, 10, 11, 33, 62, 68, 82, 83—*1936:* 2, 4, 8, 10, 11, 18, 21, 23, 37, 57, 71, 102—*1937:* 2, 8, 18, 29, 52, 85.

Nighthawk *1935:* 3, 72, 85—*1936:* 2, 7, 35, 46, 47, 49, 57, 101—*1937:* 25.

Nuthatch. Brownheaded *1937:* 8, 14.

Nuthatch. Red-breasted *1935:* 90—*1936:* 11, 19, 24, 58, 85.

Nuthatch. White-breasted *1935:* 8, 71, 73—*1936:* 11, 37, 101—*1937:* 8, 17, 26.

Oriole. Baltimore *1935:* 5, 35—*1936:* 7, 46, 49—*1937:* 2, 27.

Oriole. Orchard *1935:* 5, 33, 35, 68, 70, 83—*1936:* 3, 7, 33, 35, 46, 49—*1937:* 27.
Osprey *1935:* 17, 34, 39, 49, 91—*1936:* 3, 98—*1937:* 41, 53, 74, 76.
Ovenbird *1935:* 4—*1936:* 7, 36, 46, 49, 72, 101—*1937:* 27.
Owl. Barred *1935:* 8, 36, 50, 71—*1936:* 11, 47, 54—*1937:* 8, 17, 37.
Owl. Barn *1935:* 12, 14, 50, 72, 89, 93—*1936:* 49—*1937:* 86.
Owl. Great horned *1935:* 8, 50, 52, 92—*1936:* 1, 3, 11, 47, 54—*1937:* 8, 25, 27, 57.
Owl. Long-eared *1935:* 8, 14, 39.
Owl. Short-eared *1937:* 76.
Owl. Saw-whet *1936:* 19.
Owl. Screech *1935:* 8, 50, 72—*1936:* 3, 4, 11, 24, 47, 54—*1937:* 2, 8.
Owl. Snowy *1937:* 35.
Paroquet. Louisiana *1937:* 65.
Pelican. Brown *1936:* 38—*1937:* 82, 87.
Pelican. White *1935:* 26, 38, 91—*1936:* 17, 98—*1937:* 73.
Pewee. Wood *1935:* 3, 68, 71, 72, 77—*1936:* 3, 7, 35, 49—*1937:* 26, 48.
Phalarope. Wilsons *1935:* 34, 52.
Phoebe. Eastern *1935:* 7—*1936:* 11, 20, 35, 98, 99—*1937:* 8, 17, 18, 26, 73.
Pigeon. Passenger *1937:* 65.
Pipet. American *1935:* 8, 13, 33, 92—*1936:* 11, 19, 24, 101—*1937:* 8, 19, 73.
Plover. Black-bellied *1935:* 30.
Plover. Golden *1936:* 43.
Plover. Piping *1935:* 35.
Plover. Semipalmated *1935:* 30, 35—*1936:* 38, 73, 102—*1937:* 58.
Plover. Upland *1935:* 31, 33, 72—*1936:* 17, 38, 67—*1937:* 64.
Quail (see Bob-white).
Rail. Black *1935:* 49.
Rail. King *1935:* 23, 24, 30, 34, 36, 49, 52, 61, 71, 72—*1936:* 3, 37, 43, 47, 49, 67—*1937:* 21, 31.
Rail. Sora *1935:* 3, 12, 23, 30, 49—*1936:* 37, 43, 46, 67, 73—*1937:* 22, 23, 86.
Rail. Virginia *1935:* 32, 49—*1936:* 37.
Raven. Northern *1935:* 50, 93—*1936:* 24, 51, 58, 85—*1937:* 1, 25.
Redpoll. Common *1936:* 17.
Redstart. American *1935:* 5, 73—*1936:* 7, 37, 46, 49, 69—*1937:* 41, 48.
Redwing (see Blackbird).
Robin *1935:* 1, 8, 13, 20, 81, 83, 93—*1936:* 4, 5, 11, 22, 24, 37, 45, 58, 59, 69, 70, 85, 101—*1937:* 3, 3, 8, 18, 26 57, 60, 63, 63, 83, 85.
Sandpiper. Bartramian (see Upland Plover).
Sandpiper. Baird's *1936:* 73, 102.
Sandpiper. Least *1935:* 31, 34, 51, 52, 91—*1936:* 38, 67, 68, 73, 100—*1937:* 58, 61.
Sandpiper. Pectoral *1935:* 12, 32, 51, 52, 91, 93—*1936:* 37, 43, 67, 70, 73—*1937:* 15, 18, 23, 28, 58.
Sandpiper. Red-backed *1937:* 40.
Sandpiper. Semipalmated *1935:* 31, 34, 35, 51, 52, 91—*1936:* 67, 73—*1937:* 58, 86.
Sandpiper. Solitary *1935:* 31, 51, 61, 93—*1936:* 7, 38, 46, 49, 53, 67, 70, 71, 72, 100—*1937:* 22, 23, 36, 58, 86.
Sandpiper. Spotted *1935:* 3, 31, 51, 52, 61, 91—*1936:* 3, 7, 38, 46, 49, 53, 67,K 70, 103—*1937:* 22, 58.
Sandpiper. Stilt *1935:* 12, 52—*1936:* 17, 68—*1937:* 58, 73.
Sandpiper. White-rumped *1936:* 68, 100.
Sandpiper. Western *1935:* 52—*1936:* 67—*1937:* 58.
Sapsucker. Yellow-bellied *1935:* 8—*1936:* 11—*1937:* 8, 14.
Shrike *1935:* 6, 8—*1936:* 12, 22, 50, 101—*1937:* 8, 17, 18, 40, 61.
Siskin. Northern Pine *1936:* 101—*1937:* 69.
Snipe. Wilsons *1935:* 3, 7, 30, 45, 49, 53, 91—*1936:* 11, 19, 23, 25, 38—*1937:* 7, 19, 23, 76.
Sora. (see Rail).
Sparrow. Bachmans *1936:* 7, 36, 49, 73—*1937:* 18, 19, 27, 61, 86.
Sparrow. Chipping *1935:* 5, 8, 68, 84—*1936:* 7, 12, 23, 36, 46, 49, 101, 103—*1937:* 18, 42, 52.
Sparrow. English *1935:* 8—*1936:* 8, 12, 35, 56—*1937:* 8, 27, 63.
Sparrow. Field *1935:* 2, 8, 10, 11, 68, 84—*1936:* 1, 4, 10, 12, 36, 53, 71, 72, 102—*1937:* 3, 8, 27, 51.
Sparrow. Fox *1935:* 5, 8, 12—*1936:* 12, 24, 98—*1937:* 8, 14, 40, 77.
Sparrow. Gambel's *1935:* 11, 11, 90—*1936:* 17, 18—*1937:* 3.
Sparrow. Grasshopper *1936:* 7, 49, 68—*1937:* 27, 37, 57, 86.
Sparrow. Harris *1935:* 11—*1936:* 17.
Sparrow. Henslows *1936:* 69.
Sparrow. Lark *1935:* 36, 72—*1936:* 3, 18, 46—*1937:* 37.
Sparrow. Lecontes *1936:* 18—*1937:* 15, 15.
Sparrow. Lincolns *1935:* 90—*1936:* 4, 12, 26, 38—*1937:* 2, 42.

Sparrow. Savannah *1935:* 8, 33—*1936:* 12—*1937:* 8, 36.
Sparrow. Song *1935:* 1, 5, 8, 12, 73, 90—*1936:* 12, 59, 86—*1937:* 8, 36.
Sparrow. Swamp *1935:* 8—*1936:* 12—*1937:* 6, 8, 14, 36, 37.
Sparrow. Tree *1935:* 5, 8—*1936:* 4, 12, 21, 47—*1937:* 19, 40, 76.
Sparrow. Vesper *1935:* 5, 8—*1936:* 7, 12, 17, 24, 37, 46, 86—*1937:* 8, 18.
Sparrow. White-crowned *1935:* 8, 11, 35, 90, 92—*1936:* 12, 35—*1937:* 3, 8, 36.
Sparrow. White-throated *1935:* 5, 8, 12, 79, 90—*1936:* 10, 12, 36, 70—*1937:* 8, 36, 37, 73.
Starling *1935:* 8, 13, 34, 52, 74, 93—*1936:* 12, 19, 24, 27, 47, 59, 71, 103—*1937:* 2, 8, 27, 52, 60, 63, 78, 79.
Swallow. Bank *1935:* 91—*1936:* 7, 69, 100—*1937:* 4.
Swallow. Barn *1935:* 3, 52, 70, 91, 93—*1936:* 3, 7, 46, 49, 69, 98, 100—*1937:* 42, 60, 76.
Swallow. Chimney (see Swift).
Swallow. Cliff *1935:* 34, 50—*1936:* 29, 38, 46, 54, 69, 72, 73, 102—*1937:* 36, 60.
Swallow. Rough-winged *1935:* 4, 12, 83, 91—*1936:* 7, 36, 46, 49, 69, 100—*1937:* 26, 42, 60, 76.
Swallow. Tree *1935:* 17, 91—*1936:* 49, 69, 98—*1937:* 15, 18, 42, 87.
Swan, Whistling *1935:* 21, 27—*1936:* 17.
Swift. Chimney *1935:* 3, 68, 79, 90, 93—*1936:* 2, 3, 7, 35, 46, 49, 71, 75, 79, 84, 88, 100, 103—*1937:* 25, 36, 52, 70, 76, 79, 85, 87, 88.
Tanager. Scarlet *1935:* 5—*1936:* 7, 36, 46, 49, 101—*1937:* 27.
Tanager. Summer *1935:* 5, 68, 70—*1936:* 7, 33, 36, 44, 46, 49, 69—*1937:* 27, 48.
Tern. Black *1935:* 31, 37, 50, 52—*1936:* 53, 67, 68, 72—*1937:* 22, 58, 60.
Tern. Caspian *1937:* 50, 73.
Tern. Common *1935:* 17, 31, 50—*1936:* 54.
Tern. Forsters *1935:* 31, 50—*1936:* 17.
Tern. Least *1935:* 51, 52, 70—*1936:* 43, 54, 67, 68—*1937:* 50, 58, 60, 60.
Tern. Sooty, Eastern *1935:* 31—*1936:* 17.
Thrasher. Brown *1935:* 1, 8, 10, 11, 20, 37, 68, 81, 83, 87—*1936:* 3, 7, 10, 11, 18, 19, 20, 24, 37, 46, 49, 101—*1937:* 3, 8, 14, 17, 18, 26, 37, 40, 42, 51, 64.
Thrush. Grey-cheek *1936:* 37—*1937:* 52.
Thrush. Hermit *1935:* 4, 8—*1936:* 10, 11—*1937:* 2, 3, 8, 14.
Thrush. Olive-backed *1935:* 73—*1936:* 7, 18, 37, 46.
Thrush. Willow *1936:* 99.
Thrush. Wilson (see Veery).
Thrush. Wood *1935:* 4, 81, 87—*1936:* 7, 37, 46, 49, 61, 72—*1937:* 26.
Thrush (see also Water-Thrush).
Titmouse. Tufted *1935:* 8, 68, 71, 92—*1936:* 10, 11, 21, 37—*1937:* 8, 26, 36, 47, 75.
Towhee. Red-eyed *1935:* 8, 73—*1936:* 1, 4, 10, 12, 33, 36, 72, 86—*1937:* 8, 27, 51.
Turkey .Wild *1935:* 21, 49—*1936:* 48, 58—*1937:* 25.
Veery *1935:* 4, 33—*1936:* 37, 38, 58, 85.
Vireo. Bells *1935:* 67.
Vireo. Blue-headed *1935:* 33—*1936:* 49.
Vireo. Mountain Solitary *1935:* 86—*1936:* 58, 86, 93, 95.
Vireo. Philadelphia *1935:* 33—*1936:* 46, 49—*1937:* 42.
Vireo. Red-eyed *1935:* 4, 67, 78—*1936:* 3, 7, 32, 36, 46, 49—*1937:* 26, 38, 48.
Vireo. White-eyed *1935:* 4, 67, 78, 87—*1936:* 7, 32, 36, 46, 49, 60, 72—*1937:* 26, 48.
Vireo. Warbling *1935:* 4, 61, 67—*1936:* 32, 46, 49, 102.
Vireo. Yellow-throated *1935:* 4, 73, 74—*1936:* 3, 36, 49—*1937:* 26.
Vulture. Black *1935:* 7, 17, 72—*1936:* 3, 11, 18, 35, 47—*1937:* 7, 31, 39, 59.
Vulture. Turkey *1935:* 7, 19—*1936:* 11, 34, 47, 84—*1937:* 7, 25, 61.
Warbler. Bay-breasted *1935:* 4, 78—*1936:* 36, 101—*1937:* 37.
Warbler. Black-and-white *1935:* 4, 68, 73—*1936:* 7, 36, 46, 49, 58—*1937:* 26, 41, 48.
Warbler. Blackburnian *1935:* 35, 38, 78—*1936:* 7, 36, 48, 49, 98, 101—*1937:* 41.
Warbler. Black-throated Blue *1935:* 4—*1936:* 6, 36—*1937:* 39.
Warbler. Black-throated Green *1935:* 4, 53—*1936:* 7, 36, 46, 49, 58, 70, 73, 101—*1937:* 15, 41, 52, 58, 61.
Warbler. Blackpoll *1936:* 7, 36, 46, 49—*1937:* 2, 6.
Warbler. Blue-winged *1936:* 36, 49—*1937:* 27, 38, 41, 61.

Warbler. Cairns *1936:* 58.
Warbler. Canada *1935:* 5, 73—*1936:* 37, 43, 59, 69, 86, 101—*1937:* 36, 39.
Warbler. Cape May *1935:* 4—*1936:* 7, 36, 48—*1937:* 39.
Warbler. Cerulean *1935:* 4—*1936:* 3, 36, 43, 49, 73.
Warbler. Chestnut-sided *1935:* 4, 73—*1936:* 86, 101.
Warbler. Connecticut *1936:* 38.
Warbler. Golden-winged *1935:* 4, 34, 35—*1936:* 36, 48, 71—*1937:* 41, 62, 76.
Warbler. Hooded *1935:* 5—*1936:* 7, 37, 46, 49—*1937:* 27, 41.
Warbler. Kentucky *1935:* 4, 73—*1936:* 7, 36, 46, 49—*1937:* 27, 29, 38, 41.
Warbler. Magnolia *1935:* 4, 35, 73—*1936:* 7, 36, 69—*1937:* 39.
Magnolia. Myrtle *1935:* 4, 8—*1936:* 12, 36—*1937:* 8.
Warbler. Mourning *1935:* 33, 71—*1936:* 38.
Warbler. Nashville *1935:* 33—*1936:* 49, 71, 101—*1937:* 2, 39.
Warbler. Orange-crowned *1936:* 38, 49—*1937:* 76.
Warbler. Palm, Western *1935:* 92—*1936:* 36, 46, 49—*1937:* 41.
Warbler. Parula *1935:* 4—*1936:* 36, 69, 70, 73.
Warbler. Pine *1935:* 4, 80, 73—*1936:* 12, 36, 49, 73—*1937:* 6, 14, 27, 40, 41.
Warbler. Prairie *1935:* 4, 53, 72, 73—*1936:* 32, 36, 46, 58—*1937:* 27, 41.
Warbler. Prothonotary *1935:* 38, 71—*1936:* 7, 23, 46—*1937:* 41.
Warbler. Swainsons *1936:* 17.
Warbler. Sycamore *1936:* 7, 46.
Warbler. Tennessee *1935:* 14, 35, 73, 78, 90—*1936:* 7, 24, 101.
Warbler. Wilsons *1935:* 73, 73, 91—*1936:* 37, 59, 69, 101—*1937:* 2, 36, 52, 76.
Warbler. Worm-eating *1935:* 4—*1936:* 49, 58, 71—*1937:* 36, 37.
Warbler. Yellow *1935:* 4, 38—*1936:* 7, 32, 36, 46, 49—*1937:* 27, 41.
Warbler. Yellow-throated *1935:* 4, 78—*1936:* 36—*1937:* 27.
Water-Thrush. Grinnell's *1937:* 85.
Water-Thrush. Louisiana *1935:* 4—*1936:* 7, 33, 36, 46, 49—*1937:* 27, 42.
Water-Thrush. Northern *1935:* 74—*1936:* 71—*1937:* 85.
Water Turkey (Anhinga) *1935:* 17, 91—*1936:* 44, 67—*1937:* 43.
Waxwing. Cedar *1935:* 8, 73—*1936:* 12, 86, 99, 103—*1937:* 8, 14, 18, 26, 37, 61, 73, 88.
Whip-poor-will *1935:* 3, 33—*1936:* 2, 7, 35, 46, 54—*1937:* 25, 58.
Willett. Western *1935:* 49—*1936:* 67.
Woodcock *1935:* 3, 14, 30, 49, 71—*1936:* 48, 67—*1937:* 7, 15, 16, 25, 30, 42.
Woodpecker. Downy *1935:* 8, 71—*1936:* 3, 11, 35, 84—*1937:* 2, 8, 26, 48.
Woodpecker. Hairy *1935:* 8—*1936:* 11, 35, 59, 84—*1937:* 8, 26.
Woodpecker. Ivory-billed *1937:* 65.
Woodpecker. Pileated *1935:* 8, 36, 50, 71, 72, 73—*1936:* 2, 3, 11, 35—*1937:* 8, 17, 25.
Woodpecker. Red-bellied *1935:* 8, 68, 71—*1936:* 10, 11—*1937:* 8, 26.
Woodpecker. Red-cockaded *1936:* 17, 35, 103—*1937:* 26.
Woodpecker. Red-headed *1935:* 8, 14, 83—*1936:* 10, 11, 26, 35, 101—*1937:* 8, 17, 18, 26.
Wren. Bewicks *1935:* 8, 68, 83—*1936:* 8, 11, 37—*1937:* 8, 17, 26, 85.
Wren. Carolina *1935:* 8, 68, 83—*1936:* 3, 11, 32, 37, 53—*1937:* 8, 26, 48, 85.
Wren. House *1935:* 74—*1936:* 26, 38—*1937:* 15, 76.
Wren. Prairie Marsh *1935:* 8—*1936:* 3, 38, 43, 71—*1937:* 22.
Wren. Short-billed Marsh *1935:* 93—*1936:* 68, 70, 71, 100—*1937:* 57, 61.
Wren. Winter *1935:* 3, 8—*1936:* 11, 85—*1937:* 8, 36, 73.
Yellowlegs. Greater *1935:* 12, 31, 91—*1936:* 38, 43, 46, 49, 67, 73, 100—*1937:* 23.
Yellowlegs. Lesser *1935:* 12, 31, 34, 52, 91, 92, 93—*1936:* 23, 31, 37, 43, 46, 49, 54, 67, 70, 73—*1937:* 15, 23, 58.
Yellowthroat. Maryland *1935:* 5, 20, 73, 90—*1936:* 7, 18, 33, 37, 46, 49—*1937:* 2, 8, 27, 29, 41, 51, 76.

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